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THE MARTLET

March 12, 2009 The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper Vol. 61, No. 26 www.martlet.ca

Referendum denies funds

Only Access receives fee increase

Kat Eschner

Access UVic's bid for further funding gained support at the polls, but the other two referenda failed when a majority of students opposed them while voting in last week's UVic Students' Society elections.

The referendum to give the four student advocacy groups (UVic Pride, Students of Colour Collective, the Native Students' Union and the Women's Collective) a base funding of $2 failed by about 300 ballots, or 55 per cent of the vote.

The groups declined to comment in response to the referendum results, though they said they would prepare a written response as a group once they've had time to consider the implications.

However, Chris Ross of UVic Pride clarified Pride's stance when he left a comment on a Martlet story online about the referendum. In his comment, he stressed that he wasn't speaking on behalf of all four advocacy groups.

"These groups do not always do work that is visible to every student, but they definitely do work for and in the community at large," Ross' comment said.

He went on to describe awareness workshops that Pride has hosted, and a national conference for queer service providers, like advocacy groups and equity services.

The extra funding would have represented expansion for Pride, Ross said in his comment.

The group wants to become more of a presence in the community, work at developing Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) groups in high schools, increase advertising and expand its library of queer and trans literature.

"I am sorry that the referendum didn't pass," he said.

UVic Pride currently receives $0.50 per semester of each full-time student's fees.

Had the referendum passed, the group would have received an extra $1.50, quadrupling their funding.

Students of Colour Collective (SOCC)'s Luam Kidane spoke on the "Yes" side of the referendum in last week's election insert.

She noted the four advocacy groups are expanding yearly.

"However, with this increase in participation comes an unavoidable increase in cost to fulfill our mandates," Kidane said.

The request would have equalized funding for the four groups at $2. Like Pride, SOCC currently receives $0.50 per full-time student per semester. Meanwhile, the Native Students' Union receives $1, and the Women's Collective receives $1.45 in funding.

Together, the groups take $3.45 from each student each semester.

As a result of the referendum, Access UVic will receive $3.50 per student, seven times that of Pride and SOCC, the lowest-funded groups.

The exact same number of students voted for each referenda, but 59 per cent of them favoured supporting Access' fee increase, while only 45 per cent wanted to increase funding for the other groups.

"We're ecstatic. And very grateful," said Rose Marianna Robb, Access UVic's director.

But some students felt Access' separate referendum wasn't fair.

"I think the other organizations are just as relevant as Access," said first-year social sciences student Krista Phelan. "I don't think there even should [have been] a separate category."

Third-year sociology student Nathan Wilson noted that while Access offers important services, "that sort of disparity between student groups is obscene."

Besides the different level of funding requested, chair candidate Kyla Berry expanded on the reasons Access ran a seperate referendum question.

"As disabled people we need to address our own concerns," Berry said. "And we need to keep control of our own advocacy because historically our voices get lost when we don't."

She added Access respects and admires SOCC, Pride, the NSU and the Womens' Centre.

See Tying fees, p. 3

TEAM FAST SWEEPS UVSS EXECUTIVE SEATS

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Team FAST members Heather McKenzie (left) Edward Pullman, Veronica Harrison and Meaghan Kerr will be the next executive directors on the UVSS board. For the full story see FAST wins, p. 2.

Mystery UVSS election blogger revealed

Scott Daly

The UVic Students' Society election campaign leaped into the blogosphere last week with the launch of the controversial Vote Smart UVSS blog.

The site, which was launched mid-campaign on March 1, offered commentary of all the slates' platforms, but was especially critical of incumbent FAST candidates.

The person behind the blog, who remained anonymous until after the election, is fourth-year physical education student Andrew Allen.

"I thought that the more information out there the better," said Allen, who twice ran unsuccessfully for director-at-large.

"The Martlet and other media can only cover so many issues, and I wanted to remind people what went on this past year and which board members were running again."

Under current UVSS policy, which Allen describes as "restrictive," candidates are not allowed to specifically mention other candidates in their platform.

Defeated chair-candidate Kyla Berry believes that current election policy stifles open coverage of elections, and that blogs like Vote Smart UVSS should have a place, as they give students another source of information.

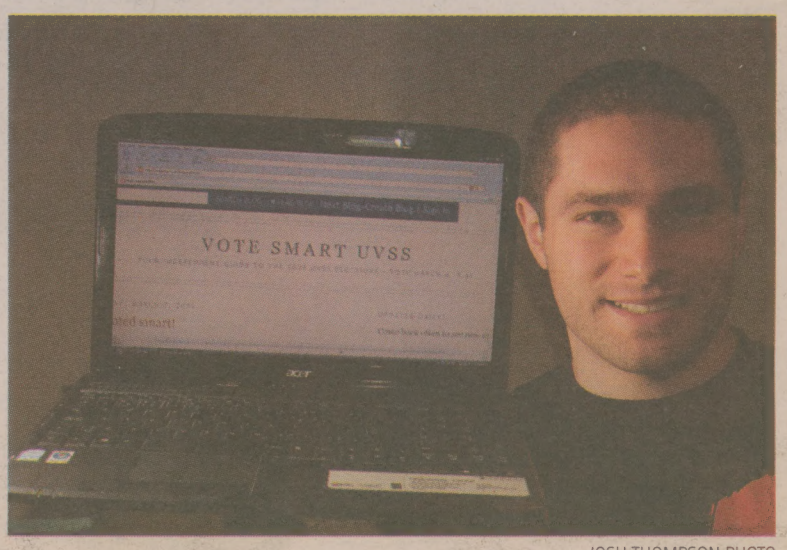
"I believe the blog sprang up because the author wanted to say things that the Martlet wouldn't print," said Berry. "Not everyone reads the Martlet, and I think more people would be likely to look up election information if it was available online."

While Allen claims he received mostly positive feedback, some think that the blog brought an undesirable tone to the campaign.

Chair-elect Veronica Harrison said that while she doesn't think the blog had much of an impact on the election, it did put forward a lot of misinformation.

"I think that the individual who wrote the blog selectively chose what to write about and what to not write about," said Harrison.

See Blog didn't break, p. 2



JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Andrew Allen created the Vote Smart UVSS blog to inform students about issues in the students' society leading up to the elections.

Continued from p. 1

Blog didn't break rules

"Team FAST and I have always believed in a positively-run campaign. We like to focus on our team and what we can do, rather than knocking down other candidates."

Conrad Vanderkamp, the chief electoral officer for the UVSS elections, says that unless the blogger was a candidate it did not break UVSS election rules.

"We did e-mail the blog[ger(s)] to ask them, in the interest of fairness, to check their facts," said Vanderkamp. "But, our electoral office has no authority whatsoever over what people who are not running decide to post."

Vanderkamp said the society's electoral policy has not been adapted to the changes in recent technology, and that it's something the UVSS should look at in the future.

Allen says he remained anonymous during the campaign because he did not want his connection with some candidates to cause them problems.

While FAST swept the executive positions, Allen is happy with the election results because three slates have representation on the board and none have a majority.

"I think the results are really good," said Allen.

"Three different slates got elected, which I hope will bring in more diverse views and input."

With the election over, Harrison hopes students will move beyond whatever predisposition they had toward the UVSS.

"I really do hope more students get involved, especially with events and at the committee level, because that is the most fun and where a lot of work gets done," said Harrison. "Also, those that choose to get involved will be much more informed about what is actually going on in the UVSS."

Vote Smart UVSS received over 500 hits during the week of the campaign, thanks in large part to paid advertising on Facebook targeted at UVic students.

"There's no point in writing a blog if no one's going to read it," said Allen. "I figured I already pay $78 to the UVSS, so I don't mind paying a bit to get people to the site."

Allen says that right now he does not see any point in taking Vote Smart UVSS offline.

"Every slate had some good ideas," said Allen. "I hope students don't forget what they were promised."

Allen's blog can be accessed at votesmartuvss.blogspot.com.

Continued from p. 1

FAST wins executive seats

Director-at-large positions bring diverse representation to board

Kat Eschner

Voter turnout rose slightly in this year's UVic Students' Society election, according to Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Conrad Vanderkamp.

Though Team FAST took the four executive seats again, their slate lost seats overall.

The numbers showed that 2,968 students voted, representing 18.8 per cent of UVic's undergraduate population.

That's up from a 15.6 per cent voter turnout last year. Vanderkamp said the election went well overall.

"People were civil and considerate [this election] and nobody played any dirty tricks," said Vanderkamp.

Veronica Harrison, Edward Pullman, Heather Mckenzie and Meaghan Kerr will sit respectively as the next UVSS chair, director of finance, director of services and director of academics.

Team BANG came in at a close second for executive positions, with candidates each sitting around 200 votes behind the Team FAST candidates.

While Team FAST scooped all executive positions, the 11 director-at-large seats will be occupied by a majority of non-FAST members.

> "People were civil and considerate [this election] and nobody played any dirty tricks."
>
> – Conrad Vanderkamp
> UVSS Chief Electoral Officer

Both members of the two-person BOLD slate — Kelsey Hannan and Nathan Warner — were elected, as well as five members of BANG — Nadim Adatia, James Coccola, Rajpreet Sall, Remy Hall and Meghan Shannon.

Dylan Hardie, one of two independent candidates, was also elected.

FAST gained director-at-large seats for Brodie Metcalfe, Christine Comrie and Leah Staples.

The UVSS board is made up of 15 elected students and five advocacy group members, for a total of 19 voting members at each board meeting.

The UVSS board chair only votes in the event of a tie.

The current board is made up of an 11-member Team FAST majority. However, the next board will have a seven-member FAST minority.

As the Martlet reported last week, election shenanigans were minimal.

However, Vanderkamp said the last day of voting did see one strange occurrence.

"Sometime in the afternoon a poll-sitter noticed that a stack of [executive] ballots had vanished from right under her nose," he said.

Polls were shut down within six or seven minutes of the ballots vanishing, said Vanderkamp.

Election officers took steps to foil any possible ballot-box stuffers by getting poll-sitters to have voters put only one ballot at a time into the box.

Mysteriously, the missing ballots were never discovered, Vanderkamp said.

Final count was only off by four ballots, so it seems the stack was never used.

Results won't be finalized until ballots from co-op students are received and counted.

Co-op students have three weeks after the close of on-campus polls to cast their ballots from their on-job locations by mail.

"My guess is that we'll be looking at 10, 11, 12 ballots," said Vanderkamp. "It will not alter the results."

Watch Martlet.ca for the final electoral count.

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Fewer exams offer more learning options

Professors are moving away from the traditional final exam to alternative methods of testing students

Scott Daly

When the last class is done each semester, the only thing between most students and the bliss of vacation are final exams. But while many are bogged down with a full load, others have none at all.

This semester, of the approximately 1,600 courses offered, only about 700 of those have exams scheduled during the exam period — down from 752 in April 2008.

For December exam period, the number of exams scheduled dropped from 714 in 2007 to 654 in 2008.

Graduate, education, fine arts, human and social development, directed studies and honours courses are among those least likely to have an exam.

But professors in other faculties are also beginning to drop final exams.

"I do not have exams in the final exam period and have not done so for a number of years," said psychology professor Jody Bain. "This is for a number of reasons, including ease of recalling information for students, fewer students missing exams due to UVic athletic commitments and marking requirements for myself and my teaching assistants."

Michael Webb, a political science professor and the 2007 recipient of the Harry Hickman Award for Teaching Excellence, says that, though sit-down exams have their advantages because they encourage students to seriously engage in course material while keeping the amount of marking manageable, they also have their shortcomings.

"A limitation of sit-down exams is that they are necessarily limited in time and not very conducive to reflection and synthesis," said Webb. "[A take-home exam] still requires students to engage with course material, but can be designed to encourage reflection on, and synthesis of, material and arguments from the course as a whole."

As a result, Webb uses traditional sit-down exams for his larger lecture classes but prefers take-home assignments for his upper-level classes.

Valia Spiliotopoulos, the associate director of the Learning and Teaching Center, says that while her group encourages professors to use a variety of assessment tools to give students feedback about their work, final exams still have a place in many instances as a test of students' knowledge and understanding.

"Exams allow professors to test at the end of the course whether or not a student knows the material, but at the same time they don't give feedback to enhance a student's learning," said Spiliotopoulos. "Many professors are rethinking their role in that they shouldn't just be providing students with a grade, but rather they should be allowing for more opportunities during the course for the kinds of assessment that give feedback to support student learning."

The Learning and Teaching Center conducts seminars and offers advice for new and existing faculty about teaching university courses.

However, professors have the final say in the forms of assessment used in their classrooms.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Many UVic students like Megan Palmer (left) and Danielle Degagne celebrate the idea of the death of traditional exams in favour of alternatives like final essays and take home exams.

Continued from p. 1

Tying fees to inflation fails

The referendum which received the least support this election by far was a question that asked to tie student fees to inflation.

Only 28 per cent of students supported that change, with more than 2,000 students saying no to the increase.

Current UVSS Chair Caitlin Meggs said that wasn't necessarily a bad thing.

What mattered was that students were asked to weigh in on the question, which came up a number of times this year, she said.

The UVSS can look elsewhere for funding to cope with inflation, Meggs said.

"I think a lot of people just voted no because any indication of fees going up is seen as negative," said fourth-year sociology and psychology student Jessica Rathwell.

The UVSS estimated the annual fee increases would have been about $2.30 to $2.80 per full-time student, based on information from the Consumer Price Index.

Referendum results won't be finalized until ballots from co-op students are received and counted. However, Chief Electoral Officer Conrad Vanderkamp said there would probably be about 10 co-op ballots received, which wouldn't alter referendum results.

Watch Martlet.ca for the final electoral count.

News Reviews

YAY!

Current UVic President David Turpin was offered a third term as UVic's top employee, after a unanimous vote at the Board of Governors.

The Committee for the Appointment of the President also unanimously wanted Turpin back.

While being offered a third term, the committees concluded that Turpin "is extremely effective as an advocate and an ambassador for our university."

YAY!

B.C. will lead Canada in restricting trans fat use in restaurants and other businesses that sell prepared food, including cafeterias and bakeries.

Beginning Sept. 30, 2010, oils and products used to prepare food must contain less than five per cent trans fats, and margarine must contain less than two per cent.

Packaged foods sold directly to the consumer with federally-approved Nutrition Facts Table on the package are exempt.

Businesses found in non-compliance will face fines.

Trans fats, which are believed to cause heart disease, are banned in many European countries.

NAY!

Transit buses passed students on their way to campus more frequently this January than last.

According to B.C. Transit figures, the number of times full buses couldn't pick up passengers at a stop rose from 187 during January 2008, to 257 during the same month in 2009. And buses bound for UVic were most likely to be full.

- Sam VanSchie

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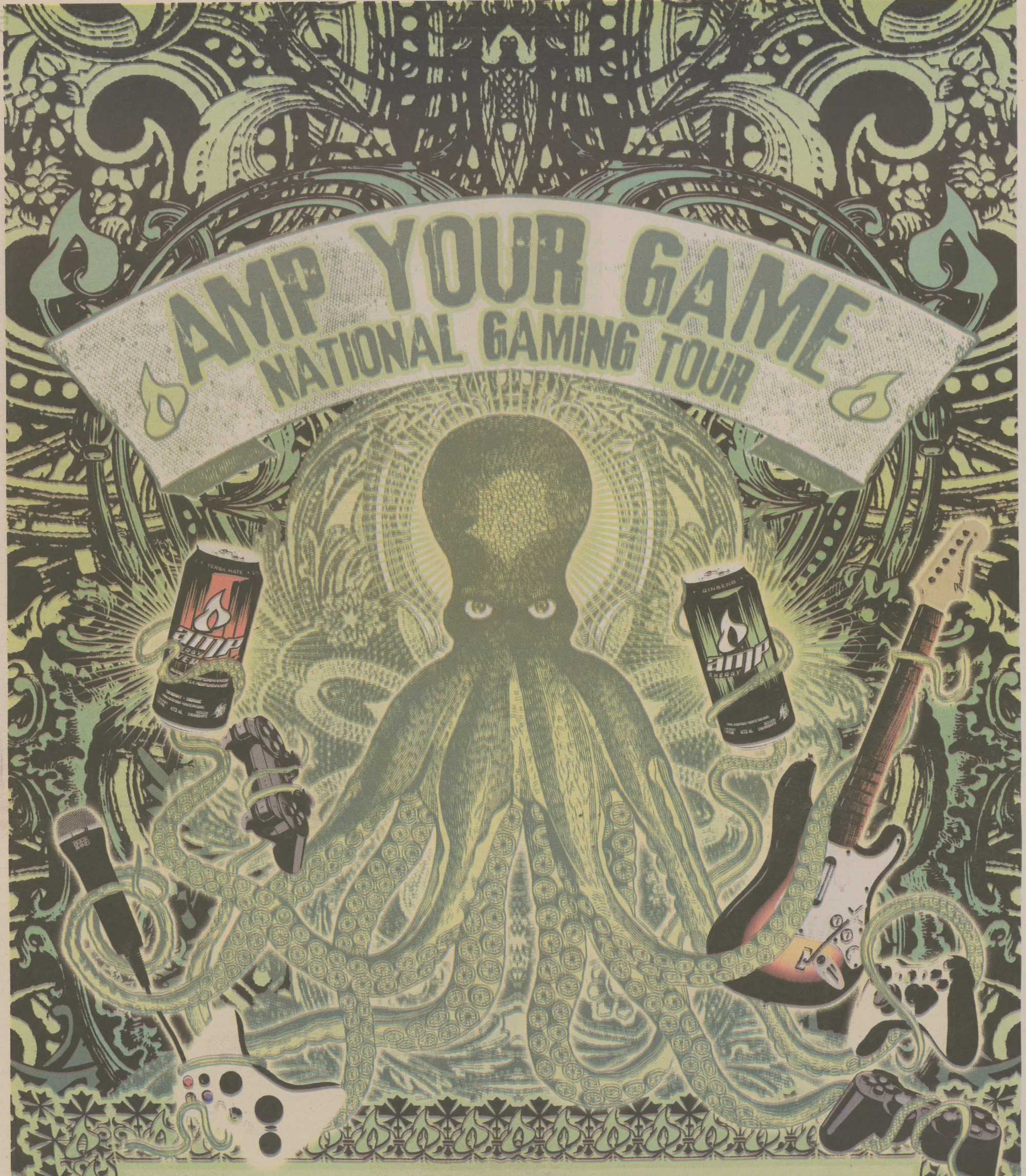

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Most UVic cyclists helmetless: survey

Younger adults believed less likely to wear helmets on bikes; students in a hurry say they're too much trouble

Frants Attorp

For years, police, health professionals and others have been warning cyclists about the dangers of riding without a helmet. Their message does not appear, however, to be getting through to many UVic students.

Constable Mat Jones of the Saanich Police Transportation Safety Unit says there is a trend "particularly among the university crowd" to ride without head protection.

"Children and older adults are generally okay, but young adults are less likely to comply with the helmet law," Jones said. "I think they have a feeling of invulnerability."

A survey conducted by the Martlet outside the Student Union Building appeared to confirm police observations. Of the first 50 cyclists spotted, 31 were not wearing helmets. Of the 19 with helmets, four were older adults. That means the vast majority of young cyclists in the survey group were breaking the law and running the risk of serious head injury.

Most of the helmetless cyclists approached by the Martlet declined to be interviewed on why they chose not to wear a helmet. However, one young man said he regularly doesn't wear a helmet because of the hassle of carrying it around and "it's so much easier to just hop on a bike and go."

Another young man who was rushing off to class said that, while he was concerned about sustaining a head injury, he had been in such a hurry to get out of the house he had simply forgotten his helmet.

Eric Fisk, a helmetless 23-year-old University of Ottawa graduate, argued that helmets can provide a false sense of security and that it is just as important to learn how to avoid accidents through proper traffic and safety education. He contended that helmets provide limited protection above 30 km per hour.

"I'd definitely wear a helmet for mountain biking or long distances," Fisk said, adding that he would probably be wearing a helmet if he had one available in Victoria.

Alex Schiebel, a 21-year-old UVic student, was among the minority of helmet wearers.

"I've hit my head enough times to know what might happen," Schiebel said. "I've actually broken a few helmets while mountain biking."

Peter Scales, a mature cyclist who recently finished his master's degree at UVic, said he started wearing a helmet 15 years ago after he saw a young man walk into a bike shop with a bike helmet that was split in two.

"He had run into a telephone pole and there was little doubt he would have been killed or seriously injured had it not been for the helmet," Scales said. "That convinced me, and I've been wearing a helmet ever since."

Another cyclist who won't ride without a helmet is 25-year-old Rochelle Veronneau, an administrator with the Victoria Brain Injury Society who is currently studying physiology at UVic.

"When faced daily with the devastating impacts of brain injury, I wouldn't ever consider riding without my helmet," she said. "I am baffled by the trend of inconsistent helmet use at the university."

Veronneau said she is exasperated when she sees students jeopardize all the time and money they have invested in education.

BRAIN INJURY STATS

Facts from the Victoria Brain Injury Society and other sources:

- Head injury is the top cause of death and disability among youth.
- There are about 130 cyclist deaths in Canada every year and an estimated 50,000 injuries requiring medical attention.
- Wearing an approved bicycle helmet reduces the risk of brain injury by 88 per cent.
- Long-term medical care for a person with a severe brain injury costs $8 million.
- 75 per cent of bicycle-related deaths are caused by head injuries.

"Put simply, a brain injury can mean game over for a person's ability to finish school, work, or maintain personal relationships," Veronneau said. "Avoiding helmet use for fear of appearing lame or having helmet hair can result in a lifetime of issues. It's not like a broken arm; the brain has a limited capacity to heal."

Veronneau disagreed with Fisk's attitude towards helmet wearing.

"Traffic safety is essential, but an accident is an accident and you can never predict when it's going to happen," she said. "Serious injury is possible even at low speeds."

According to Veronneau, bicycle helmets work only when they are worn properly. The helmet should be worn flat on the top of the head so it covers the top of the forehead. It should also be securely fastened and fit snuggly, without rocking from front to back or side to side.

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

A cyclist whips across campus with her helmet at her side. Wearing an approved bicycle helmet reduces the risk of brain injury by 88 per cent.

This week in Martlet history

Stories from the Martlet archives

March 10, 1967 — A third professor resigned in protest over the contract terminations of three controversial faculty members. Philosophy lecturer Jack Bush tendered resignation letters to the philosophy department head and UVic President Malcom G. Taylor after two professors from the English department resigned in response to two of their fellow faculty members being let go. Bush said that he was disappointed with the contrast between UVic administration's stated aims and actions. He said that he didn't believe Taylor when he said that if UVic professors weren't high-spirited and controversial enough, the university would find some that were.

March 10, 1983 — The Alma Mater Society's board of directors voted narrowly to increase salaries for executive members to $750 per month in the following school year. The move came after motions passed the previous week — raising salaries to $700 per month and $900 per month for members with dependants — were criticized as contravening B.C. Human Rights Code regulations.

- Cody Willett

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Army attacks disposable culture

Student responsible for paper cup display hopes to inspire change

Sam VanSchie

Still using a disposable cup every time you refuel on coffee? If so, you're helping The Paper Cup Army.

Students may have spotted the army in the quad last Thursday, March 5, when it made its first appearance on campus. The installation of overturned disposable cups with little angry faces and arms drawn on was created by third-year Spanish student, April Revitt.

"It's a fun way to make a statement about something serious," Revitt said. "People are making a lot of trash with disposable cups ... a simple decision to use a travel mug can make a real difference."

Rivitt herself is rarely seen on campus without a her reusable mug, unless of course the army is holding it hostage. The cup army carried an axe and had speech bubbles that said things like "March!" as they stared down three reusable travel mugs chained to a tree.

Revitt created the army entirely out of used coffee cups, which she and her friends picked out of garbage cans and off the ground.

"It didn't take us long to collect a whole army of cups," Rivitt said. "I don't think people realize how much they throw away."

The different colour cups were clustered together making different armies, from Tim Hortons browns to the red and blacks of the Bibliocafe.

One of the speech bubbles had details for a Facebook group called "the paper cup army" where people are encouraged to report their sightings of the army.

"My hope was that people I didn't know would join the group and start a dialogue about our disposable culture," Rivitt said.

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Animated cups were set up carrying an axe towards travel mugs chained to a tree. The installation is set to appear randomly on campus.

After the first installation the group grew to 33 members. The army will be making more appearances on campus. "Basically I'm just going to set it up when I can find the time between everything else," Rivitt said.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Numerous organizations are asking for underwear. A group of nursing students is the most recent, asking for donations to help the homeless.

Undies needed for homeless wear

Danielle Pope

Another student group wants your underwear — this time, especially if you're a guy.

A crew of UVic nursing students is holding an undie drive for the entire month of March, in support of Our Place, a local organization that provides services to Victoria's homeless, marginalized and street-based community.

Travis Baugh-Allen, a third-year nursing student and a member of the eight-person group, says that while donations of other articles of clothing are relatively constant at Our Place, supplies of new, clean underwear — particularly men's smalls and mediums — are in high demand.

"Often three pairs of underwear will come in, and within an hour they'll be gone but more people will have come in asking for some in that time," Baugh-Allen said. "There never seems to be enough."

Baugh-Allen says that despite the rise in underwear drives popping up around Victoria in recent months, the nursing students got their idea from witnessing first-hand the demand in Our Place. While the organization will sometimes receive donations of women's underwear, men's are almost non-existent. Baugh-Allen believes that since it's something that is not often talked about, many people don't often consider underwear when it comes to donating clothes.

But, he adds, hygiene is a basic need that has to be addressed — especially in the street community.

"When you're on the streets you can't wash your clothes or change your wardrobe," he said. "I can get up in the morning, put on a fresh pair of underwear and go to school, and it's not something I have to think about. For some people that's a luxury they don't get to have."

Baugh-Allen says the goal of this undie drive is to improve the hygiene, health and dignity of many Our Place residents. The group hopes to make a donation of 1,000 pairs of underwear to the organization during the Our Place Health Fair, which the nursing students will be hosting in April.

And this drive doesn't stop at one campus. The group has challenged Camosun students to come up with 500 pairs of underwear, and hopes UVic students will do the same — if not better.

Three boxes have been placed around campus: one near the Cinecenta entrance of the Student Union Building (SUB), and two more on the third floor of the Human and Social Development (HSD) building near the nursing department.

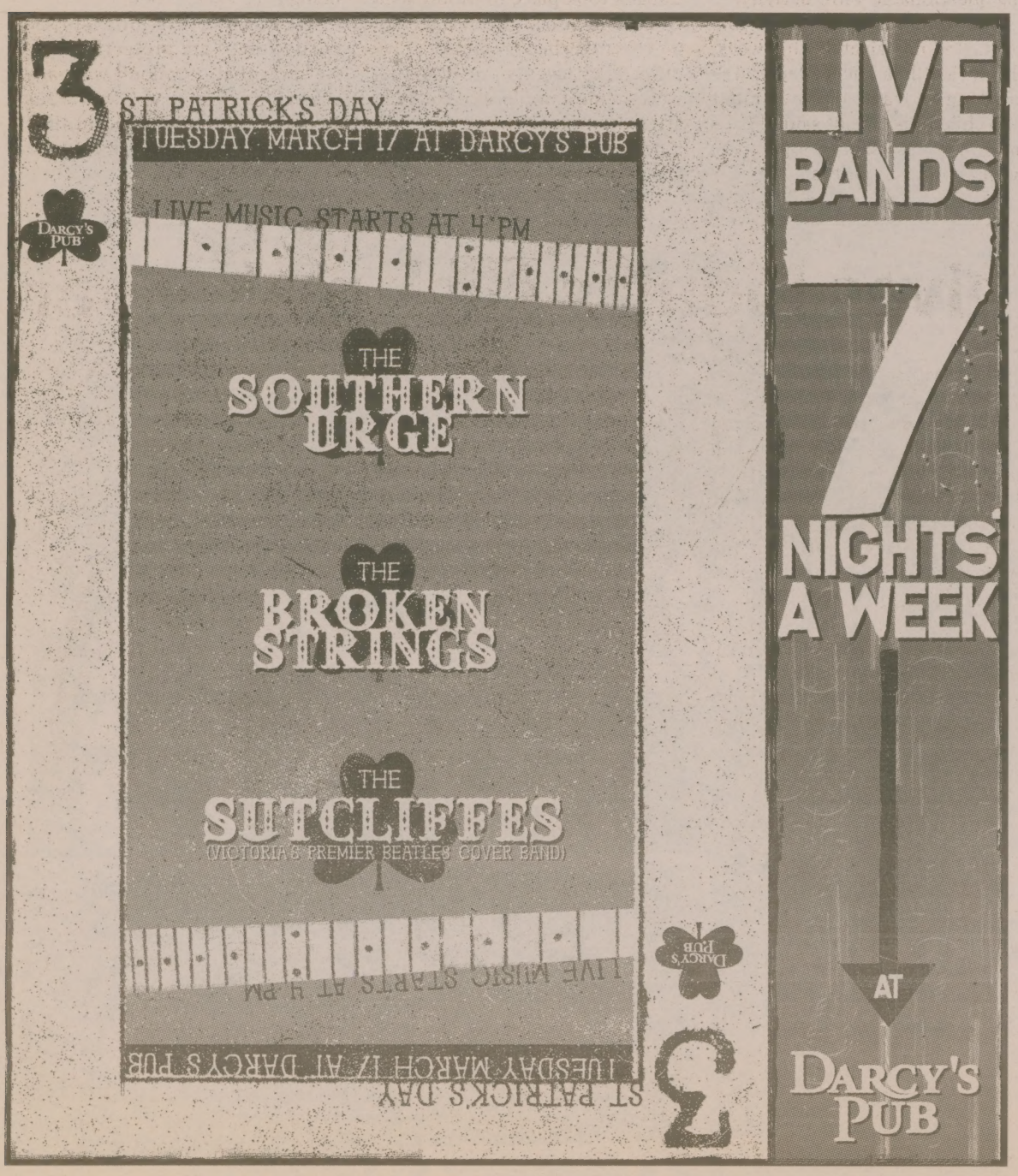
"Underwear is cheap and plentiful and not hard to give away," Baugh-Allen said. "But for people on the street it makes a big difference. It means showering and being able to change into a clean pair when they're done."

The group is asking for donations of only new or lightly-used underwear to send to Our Place to distribute amongst the homeless population.

While hygiene is the message that most of the nursing students hold in the forefront of the drive, Baugh-Allen says his own inspiration for the project was born out of frustration.

"It's really frustrating to see people coming in to Our Place and having to tell them we can't fulfill a basic need for them," he said. "I know I'd be pretty upset if I couldn't change my underwear everyday."

For more info contact Travis Baugh-Allen, at travisba@uvic.ca.



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Security for 2010 Olympics wants you

Vancouver Integrated Security Unit approaches connected citizens to act as informants on activist group activities

Jason Slade

Investigating citizens for possessing subversive literature and recruiting informants against those who criticize authority are tactics usually reserved for thought-police in dystopian fantasy novels. Such tactics are also proving to be standard practice for the RCMP-led team responsible for Vancouver's 2010 Olympic security.

The Vancouver Integrated Security Unit (VISU) is an Olympic security coalition of local police, RCMP and Canadian Forces. They have over $900 million, 7,000 policemen, 4,000 soldiers, 4,000 private security officers and a classified number of Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) agents with which to protect the 2010 Olympic Games — from environmentalists and social justice advocates.

According to CSIS documents obtained under the Access to Information Act, the primary threat to Olympic security is "domestic extremism." Victoria's active environmental and social justice community and its proximity to Vancouver is definitely on VISU's radar.

Last month, as Victoria bookstore owner Robert Garfat closed his shop, he was approached by a man wearing jeans, a dark hooded sweater and a few days' growth of beard. Garfat and his wife were immediately alarmed when the man identified himself as RCMP Officer Mike Smook.

Garfat says Smook told him that the RCMP was looking for "eyes and ears" in the community, apparently because Garfat's friendships with a number of active community members would make him a splendid recruit.

Garfat said that what disturbed him most, besides the disguise, was the fact that the officer was not specifically inquiring about violence, but requesting information on "disruptive" anti-Olympic activities.

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

"If I heard of a bomb on a ferry or poison gas on a train, you can bet I would report it to a security agency, but if you think I would inform on plans for peaceful demonstrations in a democratic society, you're mistaken," said Garfat.

The officer didn't press the issue following Garfat's reply, and requests to speak to Smook's supervisor have gone unanswered. The RCMP is well within its legal rights to use undercover officers to collect information, but Garfat is concerned that such tactics could be used to intimidate activists.

"It makes people afraid to voice their opinions in legitimate protest," said Garfat. "It's Orwellian, really."

Zoe Blunt, a stoic opponent of the Bear Mountain development and member of No 2010 Victoria, agrees with Garfat's assessment.

"RCMP security officers are already trying to infiltrate social justice groups here, not because we represent any threat, but just because we are criticizing the games and speaking out about homelessness, poverty, racism and exploitation in B.C.," Blunt said.

Blunt went on to say that her group has been approached by numerous Victoria residents regarding questionable VISU activity.

"According to several people who contacted us privately this week, the RCMP has succeeded in recruiting at least one informant — a child of 15," Blunt said. "[They said] she has been co-operating with police for months."

Blunt described how another resident reported to the group that he was questioned by police simply for possessing anti-Olympic literature. Blunt said that other activists have been reluctant to speak to journalists, fearing repercussions from the police.

Vancouver's 2010 Olympics will not be the first controversial event in which security operations are overseen by the RCMP.

The last substantial protest in Canada took place in Montebello, Quebec in 2007. There, three undercover Quebec Provincial Police officers, or "agents provocateurs," were made famous on YouTube after they were caught on videotape attempting to incite violence amongst protesters of the Security and Prosperity Partnership at a peaceful demonstration.

Olympic opposition groups are concerned not only with environmental destruction, elimination of low-income housing, financial cost and other direct negative consequences of the Olympics, but also with the accompanying restrictions on the right to publicly dissent.

VISU is discussing the use of "Free-Speech Zones" to contain protesters during the Olympics, one of which will likely be used in Victoria when the Olympic torch starts its cross-Canada relay in October.

Confining dissenting citizens to specific areas during the high-publicity Olympic events ensures that protesters' views don't get significant media coverage, effectively negating their Charter rights.

Michael Byers of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association describes the association's recent attempts at opening a dialogue with the RCMP regarding citizens' rights as unproductive.

"It hasn't been easy dealing with the authorities," said Byers. "With respect, we have pretty much hit a brick wall."

Activists like Tamara Herman of No 2010 Victoria see the Olympics and the accompanying media attention as an ideal forum to publicize their causes, while federal, provincial and municipal governments seek to shade themselves from potential embarrassment under the bright lights of the world media.

Herman is concerned that the organizations ostensibly created to safeguard her freedoms are instead being used against her.

"We know whose interests security forces are protecting, and we know that they don't want any resistance shown on TV screens as people around the world tune in to watch the 'warm and fuzzy' Olympics," she said.

Oil tanker campaign gives loonies slick makeover

Sam VanSchie

Oil-stained loonies are turning up in change collections across the country, thanks to a campaign by The Dogwood Initiative, a Victoria-based non-profit environmental organization.

Last month the organization started distributing decals that, when placed over $1 coins, turn the loon black and advertised their campaign website: notankers.ca. The website urges citizens to pressure Parliament to legislate a ban on oil tankers on B.C.'s north coast.

A legislated ban would strengthen the 1971 suspension of tanker traffic in B.C.'s inner coastal waterways that is now being ignored since the Conservatives formed government.

"Every decal you see is there because somebody volunteered their time to put it there," said Charles Campbell, a Dogwood Initiative spokesperson.

The campaign was sparked by the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway project, which would ship almost half the current tar sands crude oil production to Asia via pipelines and a tanker port in Kitimat when completed.

Dogwood insists that the volume of oil going through the coast would undoubtedly result in a spill.

"The decals are a good activist tool because they keep the issue in front of people's eyes," Campbell said.

The decals are for sale on the Dogwood website, and for $10 supporters are sent 42 decals.

Campbell said there have been over 400 orders from places as far east as Nova Scotia. They also sent decals out — free of charge — to many of their supporters.

The group has a deal with a community grocery store in Calgary to have decals put on all the loonies they give out.

"It's a pretty exciting partnership for us," said Campbell. "I don't think people expect to see that kind of thing in Calgary — oil country."

But according to the Royal Canadian Mint, decals are a trademark violation which contravene Section 11 of the Currency Act by using Canadian coins for purposes other than as currency.

They sent Dogwood a cease and desist order just days after the campaign was launched. But according to Campbell, the Mint seems to have backed off.

"We sent back a letter of response that said we would continue our campaign," said Campbell. "They said they would get back to us within a week and [a month later] they never did."

Over 200,000 decals have been distributed across the country and Dogwood has ordered another 250,000 to give out around March 24, which they and other environmental groups have deemed No Tanker Day. It also happens to be the 20th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

"We're asking our supporters to make all their purchases that day using No Tanker loonies," said Campbell, noting that special party packs of the decals will be available on their website leading up to the event to help make that possible.

For more information about the campaign, visit notankers.ca.

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Loons on the loonie get an oil bath courtesy of the notankers.ca decals.

UVic geography prof unbottles Brazilian binners

Samantha Magnus

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

UVic geography professor Jutta Gutberlet shows off rope made of recycled pop bottles that were recovered by Brazillian co-operative binners.

The words "university research" don't usually elicit images of collecting metal scraps, food spoils and dingy plastic in some of the world's most marginalized communities. But UVic geography professor Jutta Gutberlet and her team are not interested in the type of research that never leaves the ivory tower — they brand their studies as "action-oriented" research, making direct social change central to the program.

"It's a more holistic approach toward human development," said Gutberlet.

Gutberlet founded the Community-Based Research Laboratory (CBRL) at UVic in 2006, and has been researching recycling co-ops in collaboration with the University of Santo André in and around São Paulo, Brazil ever since.

This project, called the Participatory Waste Management (PWM) Project, aims to recycle urban dirty work into an empowering solution addressing environmental issues, sustainability, social capital and poverty — at least that's the vision.

On the ground, recyclers collect their goods going door-to-door, and each one has a fair say in the business of their respective recycling co-operatives. Initial training in the co-op model comes from the PWM project. Many of the first co-op members were already recyclers — they joined after a dump where they scavenged was shut down. The project got them turning garbage into gold within a fair, organized and empowering system. Later, participants were attracted to the co-operative model, and the project now boasts upwards of 500 pairs of hands.

But in recent months, the project has turned from a great venture to a risky one — not because of the nature of the job, but because of the character of the world economy.

All these are part of the "Advances, Risks and Vulnerabilities of Co-op Recycling," a March 5 lecture Gutberlet gave, hosted by the B.C. Institute for Co-operative Studies.

"The dependency on the world economy holds the biggest risk currently," said Gutberlet.

According to her, income for recyclers has dropped to a third of what workers were making before the market crash, a wage that was already hovering around the poverty line. As co-op members have begun to disband, the municipality of São Paulo has already reported a 10 per cent increase in waste, according to Gutberlet.

Yet these disasters don't drain, but seem to fuel Gutberlet's optimism.

"I think a crisis is also an opportunity," she said. "It's a good moment right now to bring up these issues."

With waste piling higher and recyclers resorting to begging on the streets, she says the phenomenon is "very visible."

And the value of co-op recycling is much greater than waste management service. Gutberlet compares the efforts of São Paulo recyclers to Brazil's Landless Workers Movement, hands-down the largest social movement in Latin America. The ethical stewardship and co-operation fostered in co-operative models starts right from the flipcharts, whiteboards and trainings of the first group leaders in the PWM project.

"The leaders are very aware of how strengthening it is to live those values," Gutberlet said.

But the problem, according to Gutberlet, is that governments are unaware of the value of co-op recycling.

"Some [recycling] groups are on the [edge] of existence," she said. "It's a very critical situation right now."

Municipalities everywhere could start by paying recyclers, at least to the tune of what recyclers save by lightening the load on city waste.

"There is a price to what these people are doing, and it's never been fully recognized," Gutberlet said.

She believes it's a policy issue, and that governments are stuck on the idea that it is better or more efficient to deal with a single technology or enterprise than a collective.

"It's too much hassle to deal with people," she explained, comparing Brazil's situation to the dilemma in New Delhi, where a carbon-credit-producing incinerator is about to put a lot of trash-pickers out of business. "We are burning what is actually a resource, [and] we are losing opportunities."

She sees a supportive policy framework as a lifeboat for co-op recycling while material prices are low, by stimulating demand for recycled products with subsidies for example, and making it easier for co-ops to be formally recognized — in Brazil it can take years.

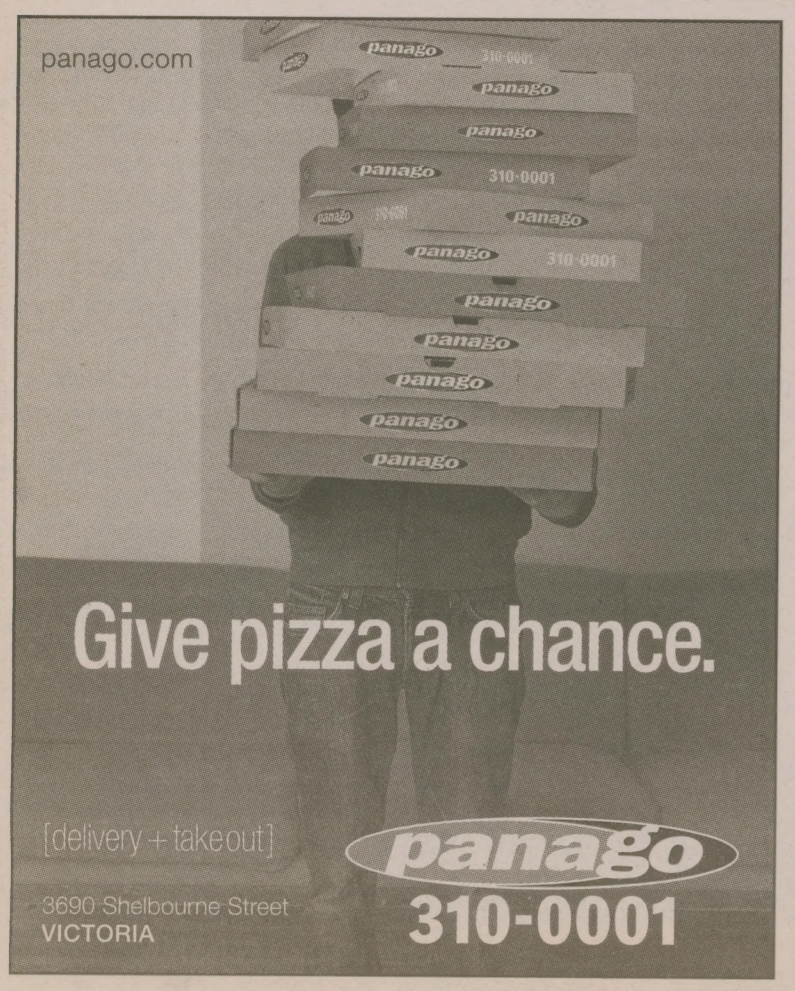
"It's not impossible; it has to do with commitment," said Gutberlet. "Otherwise, these groups won't survive a crisis like this."

The binners of Brazil are not Gutberlet's only study subjects — the CBRL researches recyclers in Victoria and Vancouver too. For more information, visit cbrl.uvic.ca.

CIVICS SPIELS

"New media isn't frankly new media any more. I watch more television on my iPod than I do on my actual conventional television set."

– Federal Heritage Minister James Moore, on why there's new funding for hi-def and multi-platform media, but not for the struggling CBC



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PROVINCIAL ELECTION RUMBLING

Environment and debt forefront issues for students

Premier Gordon Campbell and the Liberals attempt to use existing campaigns to seek the support of student votes

Jack Derricourt

After what seems like years of campaigning and polling, B.C. residents have one more frenzy to get through: the provincial election.

Hovering on the horizon this May, it's still anyone's guess as to who will end up in the driver's seat. Last Thursday's Funeral Procession for Public Education served as a strong reminder of what issues await the B.C. Liberals this coming election — dissatisfied CUPE members, a lot of grudges and a swath of students with growing student loans.

Premier Gordon Campbell and the Liberals will be looking for student votes through some of their exisiting campaigns. One is their unprecedented Climate Action Plan.

In campaign ads viewable on YouTube and their campaign website, the Liberals have used the words of UVic Earth and Ocean Sciences professor Andrew Weaver to describe the plan as "the most progressive plan anywhere."

While such a turn of phrase may have the same ring as Campbell's own "Greatest Place on Earth" catchphrase, with a respected member of the UVic community declaring the ambition of the Liberals' environmental action, should students focus on this progressive commitment to one issue as a reason to be swayed?

"It's [the Climate Action Plan] or business as usual," said third-year political science student Tanner Oscapella, who sees the coming election as a crucial chance for big business and the environmentalist attitude of many B.C. residents to come together in an economic model that benefits everyone.

Pointing to the progressive nature of such government innovations as the Pacific Carbon Trust — a Crown corporation set to begin dealing in the purchase of carbon offsets — and the Carbon Tax Shift, Oscapella sees a vote for the Liberals as a vote for a better future.

While some critics warn of state-run environmental conservation over the more liberal introduction of environmental well-being, the Climate Action Plan's emphasis on internalization doesn't phase Oscapella one bit — by using the Carbon Tax to introduce environmental factors into the economy, green finance ceases to be a simple matter of personal choice.

"We need to legislate a uniform concern for our environment," said Oscapella, "just like we believe in a uniform commitment to public health care."

Such a comparison might be treading into murky waters for anyone discussing the B.C. Liberals.

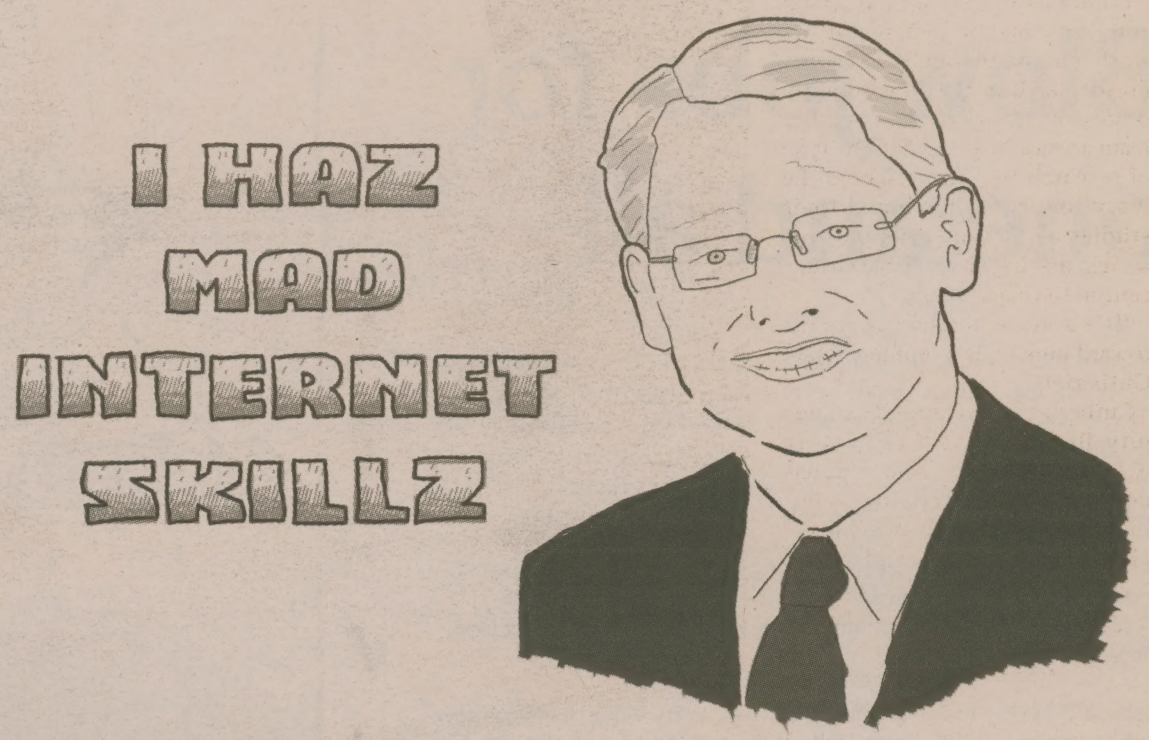
After eight years of tempestuous labor disputes, the doctors and teachers' unions are campaigning as vivaciously as any of the major parties this spring: they want Campbell out, and a union-friendly NDP government in.

Concerning the very tentative fields of health and education, Oscapella seems wary of the Liberals' recent activities. As a student, he believes that post-secondary fees can't remain stagnant in a constantly shifting market, but he hopes to see some drastic shifts in government policy following the election, such as a funding structure that would enable individual faculties to charge separate fees according to course requirements.

NDP supporter and fourth year Political Science student Edward Pullman says the last eight years of the Campbell government has been less-than-perfect.

For Pullman, the Liberal's recent increase in student funding hardly makes up for the raised fees students saw following the 2002 and 2003 budgets. While the government might be implementing short-term solutions with money in regards to post-secondary and medical institutions, Pullman believes their emphasis on deregulation across the board harms public access to their rightly-deserved services.

"While worrying about up-front costs, they haven't addressed the real issues," said Pullman. "Instead of asking 'how is this in the common good?' they're merely trying to avoid political fallout."



GLEN O'NEILL GRAPHIC

The Liberal action on climate change is the ultimate example of such spending, Pullman believes.

"Continuing to develop the province's infrastructure, while trying to cut back on greenhouse gases is like dealing with a weight problem by buying a bigger belt," he said.

The social ramifications of any attempt at sustainability are just as important to Pullman, who sees the Carbon Tax as a debilitating force upon the poorer citizens of B.C. The NDP have been fighting for the removal or reform of the tax since its creation last year, arguing that it harms families more than it helps the environment.

Along with disputes over international interests in B.C.'s forests and rivers, the beautiful green picture conjured up in the Liberal Climate Action Plan is certainly imperfect. In the end, for Pullman, history holds far too many lessons to turn a blind eye this May.

"[The Liberal's] track record speaks for itself," Pullman said. "They claim they're working for the greater good and wealth for all, while their policies show the exact opposite."

B.C. Liberal party representatives recently visited the Student Union Building, handing out free hamburgers and coffee. While munching and quaffing, students were asked to write down their wishes for the province in the future.

The ultimate questionnaire is coming our way in May, when each major party will be counting on young British Columbians for support this year, hoping to secure new voices in an effort to win out over their adversaries.

Each party wants to be seen as creators of a legacy, a politics for the future. Whatever side comes out ahead, Pullman and Oscapella agree — we'll be the ones who determine a crucial period of development for the province.

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EDITORIAL

Steak and Blow jobs for one and all

Steak and Blow Job Day — oh, the romance. March 14: yet another day we can feel bad about not being shacked up with a significant other, or just feel the pressure of exaggerated expectations to please the one we do have.

Or is it?

Sure, Steak and BJ Day risks becoming just another day of disappointed promises, but maybe it's time to subvert those pesky preconceptions about what any day designated to celebrating love should represent.

Steak and BJ Day may not sound as sweet as its Valentine's counterpart — to some its connotations are downright misogynistic — but it is another day to show someone just how much you care.

Some even say this marks one of the few days that give long-standing couples an excuse to strip out of their daily routines and jump back under the covers.

But while Valentine's leaves the illusion of a day filled with mysterious passion pleasures (romantic walks, starlit dinners, presents and candlelight, maybe), Steak and BJ Day is much more straightforward.

The directions are simple: eat, and orgasm.

But to assume that there lies the difference — that a complex and expensive day is designed for ladies, and a simple straightforward one is tailored to men — we lose sight of just how open Steak and BJ Day has the opportunity to be.

Just as not every lady craves the stereotypical hearty, flowery Valentine, not every guy is satisfied by a juicy steak and a blow job. No matter which day we look at, we're dealing with stereotypes.

Whether you're a male/male couple, a female/female couple, or a variation in between, it doesn't change the fact that you've still got two partners who are ready to feel loved. And just because you don't eat meat doesn't mean both of you aren't ready to get pampered.

Maybe, you really just want a nice cold beer with that blow job. Everyone deserves some lovin', no matter what kind of gear they have in their pants.

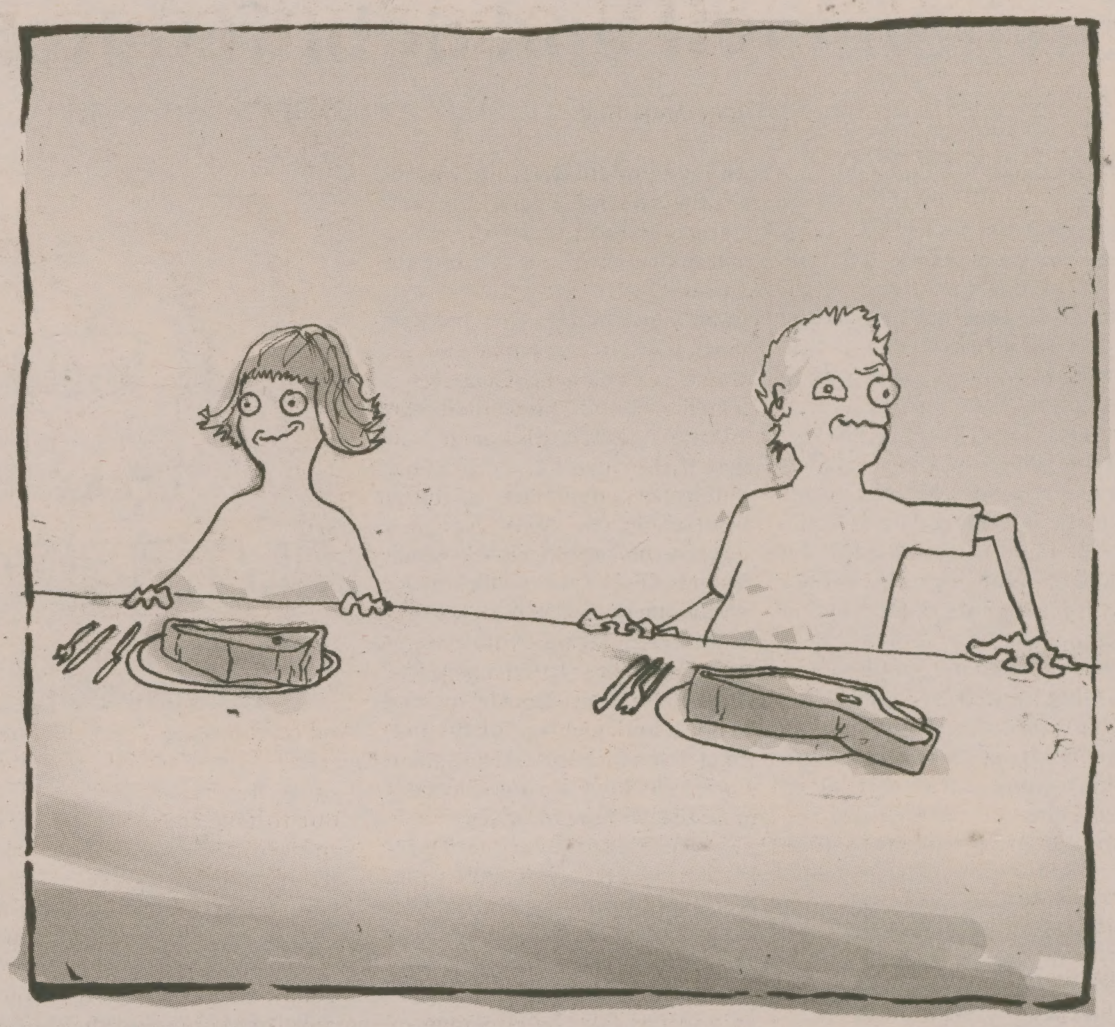
Instead of focusing on the binary roles associated with the day, look at it as an opportunity for two individuals to create time for each other and cater to a partner's needs.

After all, the spirit of the day is to show appreciation for your loved one(s) in a simple way, void of consumerism and flowers. It's to thank that person for making you happy, and to show you still care enough to do the same for them.

So take the day for what it is, lose the rules, and let it be another celebration of love — a day to show those closest in your heart just how much you care.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 12:30 p.m. every Friday in the Martlet office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

STEAK AND BJ DAY: FUN FOR EVERYONE



MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Marginalization doesn't exist

The article in the Martlet of February 26 titled "Funding decisions imminent for UVic's advocacy groups" is grossly misleading.

It calls four of these groups, the Native Students' Union, The Women's Collective, The Students of Colour Collective, and UVic Pride, "marginalized," yet one group, the Native Students' Union, is having a multimillion dollar building built to recognize their needs, and another, The Women's Collective, by its own admission, serves approximately three-quarters of UVic's student population.

This is hardly marginalization. The Students of Colour Collective represents students of colour — but against what? There is now law in place to protect them against discrimination. Finally, there is UVic Pride. While certainly a legitimate cause, why is it entitled to special funding and not, say, the Muslim Students Association (of which I am not, in any way, affiliated with)?

Both represent groups on campus, and both advocate for their respective groups interests — special interests, I might add, ones that are undoubtedly important, but do not necessarily matter to the general student body. Furthermore, why are "advocacy groups," entitled to special funding, when other support groups are called clubs and must receive funding, often limited and sometimes denied, from the club fund? While the battles these advocacy groups are fighting are by no means over, other groups, under the club label, are fighting for equally important causes, sometimes receiving no funding at all due to political considerations by the UVSS. What gives these four groups, no longer representing repressed groups, but rather representing well-known political interests, special funding? I do not wish to pay more to these groups in an earmarked amount because they are considered, for political reasons, "marginalized." I see no evidence of this marginalization.

Garrett E. S. Therrien
UVic student

Obama fights climate change

During his last visit to Canada, U.S. President Barack Obama said the following about the climate crisis: "We can benefit by listening and sharing ideas, and my hope is that we emerge from this process firmly committed to dealing with an issue that, ultimately, the Prime Minister's children and my children are going to have to live with for many years."

From March 2 to 6, hundreds of professors and thousands of students are taking those words to heart as they share ideas on climate crisis. This week, professors participating in the second province-wide Teach-In will devote time from every class to discuss climate change with their students.

Why? Because, post-secondary institutions bring together diverse expertise, have a large economic impact, and are cradles of innovation. They have the potential catalyze change in their communities.

It should come as no surprise to find young people leading these discussions; after all, we have the most at stake. We will be forced to pay the debt created today. We will be forced to live in a world damaged by current negligence. The decisions being made at this crucial moment in our planet's history will affect us more than anyone. We are the true stakeholders. We aren't simply hoping that this issue is addressed; we are demanding that it be addressed by starting the process ourselves.

Christina Service
UVic student

Thank you, UVic students

On behalf of Access UVic, the Association of Disabled Students, I would like to thank undergraduates for voting YES to our referendum question in last week's election.

We deeply appreciate your generosity and support. All students are warmly invited to use our library, participate in our discussion series or sign language classes, access our advocacy services and attend our special events.

We invite you to share in our aspirations and take pride in our accomplishments. Thanks to you, Access now has sufficient confidence and funding to accomplish its goals. Please feel free to visit us whenever you are in the SUB.

Kyla Berry
President
Access UVic

YPY vote should go to students

To the current UVSS Board: can we add the question of Youth Protecting Youth club funding to a board meeting agenda? Can we put the question of "to fund or not to fund" to a democratic student referendum?

The YPY have violated clubs policy and are determined to fight the issue of funding to the bitter end, which for them will only come when the UVSS is exhausted and bankrupt. Club Council is not democratically elected by the student body and should have no say in how student fees are allocated; leave this up to the fee-paying students or their elected representatives.

If the YPY is not satisfied with the UVSS decision to withhold funding to their rule-breaking club, let them be satisfied with a student body vote.

I for one will show up, as I did with 600 other students in 2005, to let YPY know where my feelings are in regards to this issue. Now that our money is at stake, let us decide where it should go.

Brittany Wiens
UVic student

Happy? Sad?
Enraged? Engaged?

Tell us: letters@martlet.ca
The Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community. Letters must be submitted by e-mail, include your real name and affiliation to UVic, and have "Letter to the editor" in the subject line. Letters must be under 200 words and may be edited.

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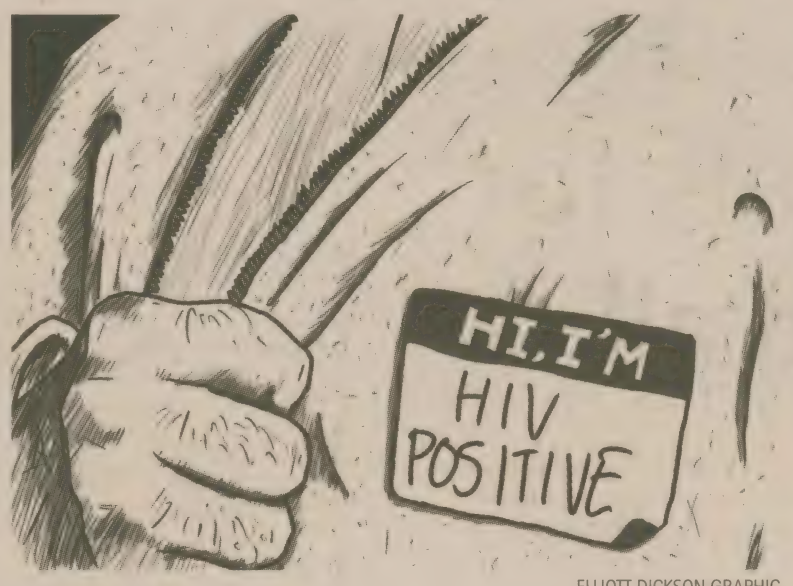
HIV assault case perpetuates stigma

Sam VanSchie



ELLIOTT DICKSON GRAPHIC

An HIV-positive Victoria man is heading to jail for having unprotected sex with women without telling them he has the virus that causes AIDS.

Zimbabwe-native Charles Kokanai Mzite, 36, was convicted on March 2 of four acts of aggravated sexual assault. The women who testified against him each said that if they had known his HIV status they would have ended the relationship. One of the women, a single mother, now carries the virus herself.

As you can imagine, this made for sensational headlines in local papers since the trial began in the B.C. Supreme Court last November. Undeniably, it's a terrible thing that happened to the women, especially for the one who now must live with a fatal virus.

Evidence suggested that Mzite knew he had the virus since 1995, but he didn't take precautions to keep from spreading the virus. That is his crime: a lack or precaution — not that he had HIV.

I don't think the coverage of the case made that clear. People with HIV can have safe, healthy sex lives. They are not criminals, though people like Mzite do much to perpetuate the stigma against them.

Antiretroviral therapy is such that HIV-positive individuals without sexually transmitted infections are sexually non-infectious, according to the Swiss Federal Commission for HIV/AIDS. And condoms are a very effective barrier against sexual transmission of the virus.

But to take these precautions, you need to be able to tell your partner you have the virus. And as the women in court made clear, that confession would have meant the end of the relationship.

Today, an HIV-positive immigrant like Mzite would have been denied entry into the country. He would not have been allowed to be tested for the virus anonymously like he did in 2001, which allowed him to tell his partner his result was negative without the clinic reporting him to a medical health officer and alerting his partners.

Taking away these individual freedoms isn't addressing the root of why people might hide their HIV-status and continue high-risk behaviour. It's not easy to tell somebody you have HIV, and it's not easy to ask.

On the day Mzite was convicted, the Times Colonist ran a file photo of him smiling with members of Jambanja, the popular marimba band that he used to perform with in downtown Victoria and on festival circuits. A friend of mine, one of Mzite's former band mates, was also in the photo. Like most people in Victoria, I am just one degree of separation away from Mzite.

The women that slept with the charismatic musician could have just as easily been me, so I take it to heart when a letter writer to the Times Colonist (predictably) blamed the women for consenting to unprotected sex, and commenters on the story that appeared on the Province website wrote, "Woman are to blame for letting these idiots bareback them! " and "Woman don't be so desperate. Yuck!"

These were words written by women — or at least under feminine names. It's common to blame the victim in random assaults to convince yourself that it couldn't happen to you. But in fact, it likely could have been, or anybody else who has ever had unprotected sex.

According to the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, over 1,300 B.C. residents tested positive for HIV between 1985 and 2008, and some 400 new cases are diagnosed each year. Many people who carry the virus don't even know they're infected.

To change these statistics and reduce the risk of the Mzite case repeating itself, we need to address the social stigma towards HIV-positive people in particular, and sex in general.

I strongly believe that there is nothing inherently demeaning about sex or promiscuity. However, contracting HIV is a real risk that comes with having unprotected sex both with people who know their viral status and those who don't.

Feeling empowered to use protection during sex mitigates most of that risk. And when people living with HIV use antiretroviral medication in conjunction with protection, there is no reason why they shouldn't enjoy a healthy sex life.

LETTERS

YPY doesn't deserve funding

The Martlet failed to explain this reasoning for denying Youth Protecting Youth funding.

The clubs policy states that funding is granted by clubs council and the UVSS. The UVSS has a pro-choice policy which was decided by many undergrads at a UVSS AGM.

The activities of YPY have been shown to be anti-choice, not pro-life, because the activities include intimidating women away from abortions and labeling the choice to abort as an act of murder, instead of including support for pregnant mothers.

Clubs Council felt YPY had a right to organize and exercise "Freedom of speech" but not to alienate the membership. Board members had expressed concern for women on campus who have complained about this club's activities.

Clubs Council decisions are not subject to the same constitutional frameworks that the board of directors' decisions are; therefore, it is within the duties of the board to scrutinize the decisions made at council meetings to verify the extent to which decisions correspond with the UVSS constitution.

As per clubs policy, YPY has the right to appeal the decision of the board at a future date if it wishes. The UVSS does not deny the "freedom to speech."

Christine Comrie
Outgoing Director of Services

Elections scandal at Martlet

We were hired as the two Deputy Electoral Officers for the UVSS Elections that occurred last week here at UVic. Having seen what kind of drama, excitement, scandal and conspiracy these elections have created in past years, we were extremely content that all candidates decided to play the "game" fairly.

However, the Elections Office was not entirely pleased. Last week's issue of the Martlet ran one story on the UVSS Elections, several letters, and a number of opinion pieces and editorials surrounding particular candidates that were running. After looking through the Martlet last Thursday and reading all of these articles regarding the elections, there was one issue that has sparked some heated debate around campus that we both feel also needs some rationalization and clarification.

What was the deal with the size of that crossword puzzle? Come on candidates, you could have used the Martlet to your campaigning advantage and we, as a campus, wouldn't have had to suffer with an awkwardly large word game.

Shawn Slavin and
Tim Hindmarch-Watson

Happy with referendum results

I came to UVic to meet new people and to have new experiences. I would never get involved with an organization for Asian males, because what would be the point?

I think it's too bad that some of the advocacy groups have turned into exclusive clubs instead of embracing people of different backgrounds and trying to move forward.

I think Access UVic has done a good job including non-disabled students and advocating within the university for issues that affect students. I'm glad that was reflected in the results of the referendum.

Andrew Yao
UVic student

Thoughts from our UVSS chairperson

Caitlin Meggs
UVSS CHAIRPERSON

Last week, independent UVic Students' Society board member Ahmed Mumeni wrote a heated column in the Martlet smearing the current UVSS board.

Ahmed's words surprised me. First, his tactic to engage students was counter-intuitive. More students are disenfranchised when they hear nothing but negativity.

Second, Ahmed fails to take responsibility for addressing any of the problems he saw. Maybe instead of being critical he should take more time to get involved. There are endless opportunities to make positive change.

Take Geordon Omand, who spearheaded making a Student Union Building Operations Committee and has been tirelessly chairing and seeking input into how to improve the SUB. Or take Stafford Richeter, who organized a food security movie viewing called "Island on the Edge."

These are just two examples of how any student can get involved. I am ashamed that Ahmed did not take the time to recognize any of the countless hours that his colleagues have spent.

I am disappointed to see how cynical and jaded Ahmed has become. He attacks current and future board members for "making promises" about affordable education and sustainability. No such promises were ever made, but board members and candidates have committed to working toward these goals.

It is sad to see that he thinks there is no point in keeping pressure on the government to address tuition costs, or working towards making UVic and the SUB more environmentally friendly. In fact, students lobbying and working hard year after year on these issues have made huge strides. Tuition is now capped at inflation, the university has taken up a Sustainability Action Plan and local mayors are creating a Late Night Transit Task Force all thanks in large parts to student pressure.

Other things that the UVSS has been active on this semester: bringing back the SUB Party, hosting Sue Johanssen's Sex Talk show, having a soup kitchen to address rising student debt, open mic nights once a month, a packed and fun UVic Idol, Municipal and Provincial election forums and much more. Maybe it is Ahmed himself who "lacks imagination and creativity." Right now, he has failed to be constructive as a student representative.

Finally, Ahmed argues that is time to end the controversies. While its true that UVSS has seen its fair share of debate and controversy, I can't see how this is necessarily a bad thing. People need to take risks, have debate and learn from it. This is a university, after all. The fact that the UVSS is an open place for students to debate, discuss and often disagree is integral to it being a democratic body. I would not want to see it any other way.

It seems that its much easier to criticize and call your fellow board members names than actually work to find solutions. But either way, I doubt the name-calling is going to inspire any student to get involved or go out there and vote.

GLEN O'NEILL GRAPHIC

Victoria bus service sucks

Edward Pullman

Have you watched a full bus pass you at the stop in the morning? Have you watched two in a row go by? Have you left the library at closing, only to find that your bus has stopped running? Have you had to shell out for a cab ride home from a late shift at work for the same reason?

The thousands of UVic students who take the bus on a daily basis are all too aware that public transit service hours are just not meeting our needs. The UVic Students' Society knows it too.

The UVSS exists to protect students' interests, and your UVSS representatives have made better transit a priority. After sustained lobbying over the past two years, we are now in a position to see real action from the government and improvements to transit service as soon as this fall.

Last year, we collected thousands of signatures from students and community members calling for more public transit funding, and also received an endorsement of the campaign from the Victoria City Council.

We secured endorsements and support from the Victoria City Council, numerous community and business organizations, UVic staff and faculty and the bus drivers' union.

The public pressure the UVSS built contributed to a $4 million increase to the annual operating budget of the Greater Victoria Region in the 2008 B.C. budget.

The focus this past year was to gain commitments to improve transit service from candidates in the fall 2008 municipal elections. Upon securing those commitments and the election of new city councils, UVSS representatives have met numerous times with the Victoria Regional Transit Commission, Saanich Transportation Council, Victoria City Council, Oak Bay City Council and Esquimalt Council to lobby for increased service for students and the community.

In recent meetings with the mayors of both Victoria and Oak Bay, they have attributed the additional funding to the work of the UVSS and have committed to a task force on late-night issues as part of an investigation of the feasibility of extended service hours.

The UVSS will be presenting our Late Night Proposal to the next Victoria Regional Transit Commission meeting on March 10, pushing for a trial to begin in September 2009.

We're certainly not done yet, but building sustained public pressure and holding regular meetings with government officials has put us miles ahead of where we were just two years ago. Let's keep moving forward.

MELODRAMATIC MUSINGS

An ode to pooping

Embracing excrement could be the key to a happy, healthy lifestyle

Will Johnson

MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

I can't think of a more sublime pleasure than taking a long, satisfying dump.

When I was young, my dad would sit on the toilet for hours and leaf through a beaten-up science fiction paperback. I didn't understand the appeal of spending that long in the bathroom, as it seemed to me a necessary and smelly chore that cut into my playtime.

But as I've grown older, and particularly since I've become acquainted with the joys of heavy drinking, I've grown to love the time I spend on the toilet. I think people underestimate the joys of excretion. It occurred to me recently that most of my greatest pleasures in life involve forcibly expelling something from my body.

If you think about it, pooping may be humanity's destiny. There is nothing we produce more regularly, and more universally, than crap. Some people create beautiful works of art, others construct skyscrapers or pave roads or write music. But there is one thing the entirety of humanity has in common: shitting.

That's why I've decided to embrace my love of one of our basest human functions. I call my new philosophy The Shit Doctrine, which calls for raised awareness of our excrement.

> "It occurred to me recently that most of my greatest pleasures in life involve forcibly expelling something from my body."

While researching this topic, I came across poopreport.com, an entire website devoted to the joys of shitting. With topics like "Poop for Peace," "The Shameless Shitting Manifesto" and "Flush with Pride" proudly displayed on the screen, I thought for sure I'd found some kindred spirits. It even had a database of movie poop scenes.

Then I found this quotation: "Rich or poor, black or white, Muslim or Christian or Jew, shitting is a shared human experience with no cultural boundaries. The pleasure and the pain of shitting is something to which all humanity can relate. Such a transcendent experience has the power to unify humanity."

Preach it! I shit, therefore I am.

In *Angela's Ashes*, one of my favorite books, a character remarks that when World War II and the Holocaust seem too overwhelming to take, just think about Himmler and Goebbels and Hitler taking a shit.

It's a powerful image. Amidst all the chaos, violence and horror, try to think about Hitler grunting and sweating as he tries to squeeze out an uncomfortably solid log. "Nein, nein," he mutters under his breath, mopping his brow with the back of his hand.

I see The Shit Doctrine as a humbling philosophy, one that equalizes each and every one of us. That hot girl on campus? She shits. Barack Obama? He shits. Angelina Jolie, your grandmother, Buddhist monks — they all regularly spend time pushing on the porcelain. Nobody escapes.

So why fight it any longer?

Embrace your humanity, appreciate your connection to the rest of the world and take a couple extra moments on the toilet next time. You can even bring a book.

MARTLET JOBS

The Martlet is hiring!

Interested in the business side of a newspaper? The Martlet is hiring a managing editor for this coming year. The application deadline is March 27. Job details are available at martlet.ca/jobs.

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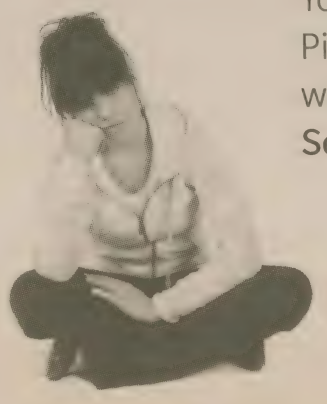

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Universal healthcare heads down south

Kara Johancsik

I set my alarm so that I wake up to CBC Radio One. I'm not sure why I do this, because I am far from capable of understanding what's being said at 6:30 in the morning, and I have a habit of hitting the snooze button and sleeping through the morning news.

The other morning, however, I vaguely heard the words "Obama" and "universal health care" used in the same sentence. My eyes immediately snapped open. I even went to great lengths to raise my head in a groggy effort to hear the rest of the story.

It appears that Barack Obama is moving the U.S. toward universal health care.

"Health care reform cannot wait, it must not wait, and it will not wait another year," Barack Obama recently told Congress.

On February 28, Obama asked liberal-minded Kansas governor Kathleen Sebelius to become secretary of health and human services and presumably to help lead the country towards a more accessible health care system. This ambitious feat has been attempted by previous presidents, but has yet to succeed.

In my sleep-addled state, the prospect of health care reform in the U.S. made me slightly indignant. Universal health care? That's Canada's thing — they can't steal it from us! What will we hold over the Americans?

My reaction was petty and immature, and I am acutely aware of this. Given the problems the American health care system has posed for many of its citizens, moving towards more accessible health care can only be seen as an improvement. However, I think my reaction is indicative of two interesting Canadian characteristics.

The first is that I clearly suffer, as do many Canadians, from political envy. The U.S. has elected a leader with greater popularity than the latest American Idol. In recent months I have seen more posters of Barack Obama than I have of hockey players Jarome Iginla or Roberto Luongo. Needless to say, few Canadians are able to muster as much enthusiasm for Stephen Harper's policies as Americans can for Obama's. The "rock star President" is attempting to undertake massive changes in the American system to the approval of his adoring masses.

The second, is that we appear to be uncomfortable with becoming too similar to our dear neighbours. Canadians have a tendency to use the U.S. as a point of contrast in forming a national identity — whatever we are, we're not Americans.

> "It appears Barack Obama is moving the U.S. toward universal healthcare."

I spent three years living in Australia, where I often had to explain that Canada and the U.S. were different countries sharing the same continent. During this time, the Bush administration was in power, and my family and I were eager to distinguish ourselves as Canadians. When asked about the differences, we normally chose to emphasize the different electoral system, our distinct foreign policy and our preference for universal healthcare.

With Obama's global popularity and his implementation of liberal reforms, Canadians no longer have the right-wing policies of the Bush administration to compare themselves against. I think this has positive implications for how we see our national identity.

My crisis over the prospect of American universal health care has forced me to realize that there's more to being Canada than not being the U.S. We have a history and culture unto ourselves, and a vast potential for national self-awareness and improvement.

So come on, Canada, let's show them what we've got.

Watching a friend die

Jennifer Gait

My cat Emmy would be 17 in human years on March 30 if she were to live that long. She won't. She is dying.

The term "belling the cat," meaning doing something risky, originated from a story in Aesop's fables. A group of mice decide to put a bell on a marauding cat. They get very excited, until one wise mouse asks who will bell the cat. I too have been belling the cat, though any risk involved is not to me, but to Emmy.

Her last three years have been punctuated with frequent bladder and kidney infections, which were finally quelled by six months antibiotics. Since November, she has been infection free, but prior to that we had many visits to the vet. She is not a cat that does well with vets at the best of times, and these were not the best of times.

All the way through this saga I was haunted by the question of whether or not what I was doing was in her best interests. Was the pleasure she was getting out of life between bouts of infection worth the pain of the infection, investigation and treatment? How would I know when to stop subjecting her to these things? And finally, did I have the right to decide to kill her?

It all boiled down to one question. How could I decide what was best for a member of a different species? Undoubtedly, there could be situations in which it was obvious that the kindest thing would be to kill her, and some in which the kindest thing would be to treat her, but we mostly seemed to be in the grey area. For humans, this is the area where advance directives are helpful. Unfortunately, no one has invented them for cats.

In the end I turned to the Buddhist monk who leads the drop-in classes I have been attending. I asked him if, from a Buddhist perspective in which all living things are honoured, I had the right to decide to end her life if it appeared to be causing her more pain than pleasure. He said that how long she lived was not important, but that I should include her in my spiritual practice and meditate on her having the potential to become enlightened in her next life. So I have been doing that.

For several months she has peacefully spent her days sitting on a heating pad, looking out at the garden she used to love to lie in.

Six days ago she took to my bed, and for three days lay comatose under the covers, neither eating, drinking, nor — thank goodness — eliminating. I realized that this was the end and felt sad but also pleased that she was dying so peacefully. Then she woke up.

Now, having lost a third of her weight, and unable to stand for more than a few seconds without support, she is still dying, but very slowly. She gets up occasionally to drink some water or visit her litter box (more my idea than hers) but is not interested in food. She does not appear to be in pain, and mostly just wants to be left alone to sleep on a thick bed of towels under the covers. So why am I filled with angst again?

I worry that by letting nature take its course, I am putting her at risk by subjecting her to unnecessary discomfort. But the silly thing is that I know this process. In 23 years of nursing, I watched many people die. Most of them, like Emmy, come to the stage where they are bedridden, then stop wanting to eat, then spend much of the time sleeping, then stop drinking, and then generally lapse into a coma and die. It's the way I hope to go eventually, because I think that the process of dying is important and valuable.

So why do I feel that I am putting Emmy at risk? Partly because there is the alternative of a "quick and easy" death, but also because dying by its very nature is risky. Whatever way it happens we won't come out of it alive. And neither will Emmy.

Whenever you're ready Emmy, I'll toll the bell for you.

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Faking Fetishes

A tale of one phone sex operator

"You're pathetic; all you're good for is your money," Molly Moore says, in a sexy snarl. "I'm just using you for your cash." Then she laughs, shakes her head and switches to her normal voice: "It's really fun. It's the only time I get to tell [a client] the truth." This is her demonstration of a financial domination fetish and what it's like to entertain a customer who has one.

Kink on the line

Moore is in the fantasy business. She deals in fetishes and kinks — everything imaginable. If someone can dream it up, she can sell it back to them. Her clients never see her and she never sees them. It's a phone sex business, run entirely out of her second-story apartment in Victoria. The living room has sea green walls, hardwood floors, old-fashioned radiators and a vintage box television set. There's a Sega Genesis and a bookshelf packed with cookbooks, works by Dossie Easton and by Naomi Wolf. It's the perfect headquarters for an entrepreneurial sex worker.

Molly Moore isn't actually her real name, nor is it one of her work names or even the taken name she goes by on a day-to-day basis. It's just a pseudonym.

"Molly is a variation on one of my [work] names," she explains. "Moore is like 'more' with an extra O, because I can never get enough — money, food, sex, whatever."

Still, it's hard to picture Moore faking orgasms over the phone. With her square-ish glasses and nerdy shock of red hair, the 26-year-old is hardly the archetypal sex industry worker. She dresses in jeans, a black t-shirt, a fur-lined, zip-up hoodie and socks with fuchsia hearts on them. She looks more studious than sexy — fitting, considering she started in the phone sex trade while paying off student loans on her MA in library studies. She liked it so much she decided to trade in the sterile silence of the archive for the enthusiastic panting of invisible strangers.

"The only real use for my degree is that it gives me legitimacy," she jokes. "I do it less now, but whenever I used to tell someone about my work I'd preface it by saying, 'I have a Master's degree.' A lot of times people assume [sex work] is a last resort, but I want to be where I am, doing what I'm doing. I have options."

> "Whenever I used to tell someone about my work I'd preface it by saying, 'I have a Master's degree.' A lot of times people assume [sex work] is a last resort, but I want to be where I am."
>
> – Molly Moore
> Phone sex operator

Woman on a mission

Moore once worked as a university archival research assistant. After graduation, she was offered a job as an archivist on the mainland, but chose instead to move back to Victoria where she'd completed her undergrad. She doubts she will ever work as a fulltime archivist; nine-to-five jobs don't appeal to her. Autonomy and independence are two of the factors that drew Moore to the sex industry. Sure, the money in conventional work is more reliable, but just the thought of keeping a boss-dictated schedule turns her off.

"Even at a good job that would suck," she says.

Moore's resistance to structured employment doesn't mean she doesn't embrace challenging work. Phone sex is far from easy money. Every hour of paid labor comes with countless hours of unpaid labor spent marketing, self-promoting and hunting down clients. Plus there's the waiting. A typical day on the job can mean sitting at home for hours waiting for a call. Any given day might bring non-stop clients or it might bring none, but Moore works whether the phone rings or not.

It's not surprising she dodges questions about how much she makes.

"It pays the bills," she says and adds that it varies month to month.

Fortunately, Moore's no stranger to hard work. She approaches the challenge of running a phone sex business with enthusiasm. She's an innovator by nature, and an entrepreneur in a subversive way.

A few years ago, she ran her own salvaging business. She shopped for deals at thrift stores and dumpster dove for useful goods — a lucrative hobby in a city like Victoria, where middleclass university kids throw out furniture and appliances at the end of every semester. Hippie Christmas, it's called. Moore's apartment, which acted as the store from which she sold her goods to locals, was stacked to the ceiling with precious finds.

These days, Moore's apartment is neat and tidy. Moving to Vancouver and back forced her to whittle down her possessions; she now prefers a less-cluttered lifestyle. She used to acquire things because she wanted them, not because she needed them. The same principle was used in selling her second-hand treasures.

"People would say to me, 'I don't need that' and I'd say, 'Yeah... but do you want it?'"

If the "it" was something cool or funky, she'd make the sale. Now the it has changed, but the concept is the same. No one needs a sexy voice to talk them through their wildest fantasies from the safety of a phone line, but plenty of people want it.

Story by Auden Cody Neuman
Illustrations by Jennifer Zhou

A set for every secret

According to Moore, phone sex is all about kink. Clients call her because they have a desire they're not comfortable sharing with their wives or lovers; most can't even handle telling their fantasies to escorts.

Phoning Moore provides a safe way for them to explore their desires without judgment. She will entertain any fantasy. To her, it's all acting. She cites her own sexual liberation as a queer kinky femme as one of the reasons she's able to perform her work.

"Whatever they're into, I pretend I'm into it too," she says.

Common requests? Adult babies. Small penis humiliation. Smoking fetishes. Lots of anal penetration. It sounds exciting, but Moore is quick to point out just how boring it can be.

"How many different ways can you talk about fucking someone's ass?" she says. "Do it 10 times a day, and you'll definitely start repeating yourself."

The art of sex acting

Moore's mom doesn't support her daughter's work.

"When I told her what I do, she literally covered her ears," Moore says. "She didn't want to know."

Moore describes her mother's attitudes these days as conservative, despite having had close ties to the sex industry as a young woman herself. Moore thinks the change has to do with money and comfort — two things her mom didn't have when she was young.

"When you're in a difficult position, you fight," she says.

When asked what she plans to do in the future, Moore laughs.

"Be a porn slinger," she jokes, adding that she wants to get into web mastering. "There's only a certain number of minutes in a day when I can be talking. If I get into running affiliate sites [for sex work] then the money's always coming in."

In her spare time, Moore takes modern dance classes, skateboards and helps out in the kitchen of a local restaurant. She also likes to eat — a lot. She says this while peeling a banana with her narrow fingers: breakfast at noon.

"Eating is one of my hobbies. I do it constantly, though you wouldn't know it."

She's obsessive about her food, making all her meals from scratch and buying only fresh ingredients from farmers' markets.

Moore and her monstrous cat are like Jack Spratt and his wife. The kitty's been on a diet for years, eating measured portions of diet food, yet it can't lose a pound. Meanwhile, Moore eats constantly and can't gain one.

Moore also makes periodic trips to Prism (now Paparazzi), the only gay club in town, where she likes to hit the dance floor with friends.

For her, there's nothing contradictory about being a queer woman and selling phone sex to men. People sometimes ask if she gets women callers. Periodically she does, but she's quick to clarify.

"Most people assume because I'm queer I enjoy the women more, but it doesn't work that way," she says, her smirk looking tired as though this is the most obvious yet oft-repeated explanation she has to give. "Really, it's no different. It's still a job. I'm still acting."

Except, of course, when her clients ask her to say she's only using them for their money. Then she tells the truth.

Victorians get up and stand up for orphans

Advocacy and entertainment will meld in Lucky Bar fundraiser benefiting an orphanage in Montego Bay, Jamaica

WHAT: Get Up! Stand Up! A fundraiser for Jamaica's orphans
WHERE: Lucky Bar
WHEN: March 21, 8 p.m.
Tickets: $12, available in advance at Dab Gallery, and Style Bridge

Emily Agoposowicz

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Get up! Stand up!, a fundraiser for orphans in Jamacia, was organized by (from left to right) Marika Albert, Sharon Melville, Rachel Winter, Jayde Farand and Lindsay Harber.

Victoria's music fans will come together on March 21 to Get up! Stand Up! at Lucky Bar, and all for a good cause. The night of spoken word, hip-hop, reggae and contests will raise money for the Blossom Gardens orphanage in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Featured performers include Calgary-based "da lyrical pitbull" Wakefield Brewster, a hip hop and spoken word artist, and Victoria's Anushka Kush and Mindil Beach Markets.

> "My heart senses — kind of like spidey senses — went off and immediately I began to envision an event."
>
> – Jayde Farand, Get up! Stand up! organizer

March 21 is also the annual International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

For "Get up! Stand up!" organizer Jayde Farand, the event offers an opportunity to combine her human rights advocacy and her love of local entertainment.

"This event has it all," said Farand. "Entertainment featuring a blend of soul-sparking, intoxicating and powerful urban hip hop, spoken word and reggae, fun contests and much more. By joining us at this event, everyone will have the chance to celebrate the Elimination of Racism while also donating to orphaned little ones in Jamaica who are deeply in need.

Blossom Gardens is a temporary home for children from birth to eight years of age who have become wards of the state. The home is licensed to accommodate 75 children, but numbers have been as high as 87. With a staff of only four, the orphanage often depends on volunteers to offer extra support.

Sharon Melville is a nursing student at UVic who plans on volunteering at the orphanage in April. While on a practicum at the Victoria Women's Transition House, Melville met Farand, a human rights advocate, event organizer and counselor for the Transition House.

"When Sharon shared that she hoped to raise money to bring with her to support the orphanage, my heart senses — kind of like spidey senses — went off and immediately I began to envision an event that would raise awareness and funds, as well as be a celebration of local talent," said Farand.

Participants will also get a chance to exercise their limbo and dancing skills through different contests. All proceeds will go directly to Blossom Gardens orphanage.

UVic Pride plans conference to promote interaction

Alison Wagner

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

UVic Pride will be hosting a cross-Canada conference in 2010, with a focus on community interaction.

In February, representatives from the UVic Pride Collective attended the Canadian University's Queer Services Conference (CUQSC) in Guelph, Ontario. And they returned in high spirits – now UVic is set to host the conference in 2010. But there is plenty to be done before then.

"We're excited because Pride is bigger and doing more than it has in recent years," said Miryam Burns, one of Pride's coordinators who attended the conference. "With all the groups we hope to involve, we think the community can really come together."

The 2009 CUQSC featured a keynote speaker and a series of workshops put on by different community groups. The theme of the conference was "Intersectionality"— the idea was that each group works for a different aim, but many of those aims intersect for individual people. Yet no one person is defined by a single aim. For example, a queer person of colour would be working to raise awareness of multiple aims.

"The theme was a good idea," said Burns. "It made people realize that the issues we all face are not just about sex and gender."

However, UVic Pride plans to up the ante at the 2010 conference. The proposed theme is "Celebrating and Exploring Community: Stirring the Ultimate Soup," which reflects the wide array of groups that Pride hopes to involve. They plan to facilitate more community building through workshops, discussion groups and a social dance.

"One thing we were frustrated about [at the 2009 conference] was the inaccessibility of the language," said Burns. "There's a lot of jargon involved, and if you don't know the language it can be difficult to follow."

Burns says that intersectionality, identity and the fluidity of gender are not common terms. At the new conference, they hope to make sure everyone understands their meanings.

The Pride group is already hard at work on the 2010 conference. They will need to arrange accommodation, food and volunteers, and overcome greater challenges like the Safer Space concept.

"It's difficult to make sure people know that prejudice and intolerance will not be allowed in any form," said Burns.

Safer Space allows for open discussion of topics that may be viewed as controversial in any other setting. The Pride office and discussion groups already make successful use of this concept, but translating it into a larger event can be difficult.

However, optimism is high and Pride is enthusiastic about both conferences.

"I liked learning about the intersectionality of queer issues," Andrew Shopland said of the Guelph conference. "It was informative and we learned a lot about other people's experiences."

For more information, or if you're interested in helping out, contact Pride at uvicpride@uvss.uvic.ca, or stop by their office, SUB B118.

Comic artist celebrates modern myths and icons

WHAT: Modern Myths and Icons: The Comic Art of Ken Steacy
WHERE: Winchester Galleries
WHEN: now until March 28

Doug Hamilton-Evans

In his 35-year career as a comic book illustrator/author, Ken Steacy never thought he would have his work displayed in a fancy art gallery. But from March 8 to 28, Victoria's Winchester Galleries will do just that, hosting "Modern Myths and Icons: The Comic Art of Ken Steacy."

The exhibit is a retrospective look at Steacy's career and the role of the artist in the comic book industry. Over the years, Steacy has illustrated prolific pop culture icons like *Spiderman, Harry Potter, Indiana Jones, Astro Boy, X-Men* and *Batman* in his signature style — vibrant colours, dramatic lines and incredibly expressive, almost cartoon-like faces. His work always conveys the sense of action and fun that comics were made for.

Calling his illustrations eye-candy would be dismissive, but there is something about his work that grabs the focal point and won't let it go.

Steacy's first break came in 1974, when his two-page strip *Super Student* was published in Orb Magazine. He wrote, penciled, inked and lettered the strip, setting the tone for his preferred "do everything" approach to comics.

"I like to accept all the credit, or take all the blame," he said. "I don't like the idea of the compartmentalization of every part of comic production that allows the whole product to suffer if one person is in a rush to meet a deadline."

Steacy continued to do things his own way after *Super Student*. He went on to the Ontario College of Art & Design to study film, but insisted on handing in comic strips instead of films as examples of sequential narrative, winning him scholarships and the Lieutenant Governor's Medal in the process.

Since then, he has worked on many significant projects and has made a name for himself in his field. Some of Steacy's most notable works include *The Sacred and the Profane*, co-authored by Dean Motter, *Night and the Enemy*, a collection of stories by Harlan Ellison and *Tempus Fugitive*, a time-travelling adventure graphic novel by Steacy that he exercised complete creative control over, much like *Super Student*.

For the last 20 years, Steacy has intermittently done illustrations for LUCASFILMS; he has never met George Lucas, though, despite the fact that Lucas has purchased some of his paintings. Steacy also occasionally collaborates with Canadian author Douglas Coupland.

Steacy has been in the comic book industry for a long time, and he's seen comic book characters emerge from dark basements and transform into Hollywood money makers — but he isn't convinced that things have evolved much.

"Despite the booms and busts in comics, it still hasn't moved very far beyond the male adolescent power fantasies," he said. "It is changing, but you still only really see superheroes in comic shops."

Steacy pointed out that in the '40s and '50s there was a wider range of comic book genres that appealed to a broader demographic of readers. In the '60s and '70s, superhero comics proved to be the most profitable, as they continue to be today. It is changing, however, with the influx of Japanese comics and the rise of the graphic novel. The predominance of superhero comics isn't the case everywhere in the world.

> "You might not make a million dollars, but you can do something you love and have complete contol over it."
>
> – Ken Steacy, Graphic artist

"In Japan and France, everyone reads comics. It's more respected as an art medium and there are stories for everyone," Steacy said.

This isn't to say that Steacy doesn't love superhero comics — *Iron Man* is his favourite character to draw — but he is interested in the other kinds of stories that comics can tell, like *So, That's That!*, a graphic novel by his wife, Joan Steacy, that follows her father growing up in Canada during the depression and living to be 100 years old.

Steacy admits that the chances are bleak for budding artists looking to make it in the industry.

"It is next to impossible to get into mainstream comics these days unless you draw exactly like the guy who's popular right now," he said. "If they do take you, you'll probably start as an apprentice pencil sharpener."

The good news, Steacy says, is that web comics and self-publishing make it easy to get your work out there.

"You might not make a million dollars, but you can do something you love and have complete control over it," he said.

For more on Ken and Joan's work, visit kenspublishing.com.

Above, graphic artist Ken Steacy's work is currently showing at Victoria's Winchester Galleries (photo by Rob Destrubé). Lower left, Steacy has drawn Magneto for Marvel Comics (provided image) and Ultraman for Harvey Comics, right (provided image).

Artists showcase imagination

Dexter McMillan

DEXTER MCMILLAN PHOTO

The Imagination Gallery was created by and for young artists.

For most Victoria artists, the hardest part about getting recognition is getting exposure. The Imagination Gallery, a unique group of young artists dedicated to uncovering other young artists, has the answer.

The Imagination Gallery puts on shows of all types, showcasing all mediums of art. March 6 and 7 marked the second-annual Limelight Exhibition, an Imagination Gallery event dedicated to providing artists aged 12 to 22 with and avenue to display their work, no matter what form the art may take. The work on display ranged from music and dancing to paintings and photography. And it all meshes together for one mind-blowing experience.

The staggering scope of the Imagination Gallery was shocking, as 50-plus featured artists were packed into just a few small rooms at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre. The pieces on display ranged from sculptures made entirely of nuts, bolts and old piping to vivid paintings of scenery and animals.

Christine White, one of the gallery's founding members, displayed her work at the Limelight exhibition, and looked perfectly at ease while working on a gigantic portrait entirely in charcoal. In another space were photographic gems shot by Noel Anstey.

One room showcased music as another medium of art, with the band Soul Funkable performing their rendition of Jamiroquai's "Little L." Immediately, people began dancing as the band's plentiful energy swept the room.

Sid Vereecken, another founder of the gallery, said the gallery's mission is to be a launch pad for youth to get involved in art and get exposed.

"Our gallery is different because we don't limit ourselves to one type of art," said Vereecken. "The audience can expect to see all styles, including music, painting and poetry."

Right he is. Around another corner was a gigantic canvas lying flat and being worked on by a variety of volunteers to create a unique painting.

The Imagination Gallery was founded in 2007, and their first exhibition was only a quiet gathering of artists entitled Expose. From there, the six original creators nurtured their brainchild into an entity large enough to produce the first Limelight event. From there, the ball never stopped rolling.

Students interested in having art featured in the next show should get in touch with The Imagination Gallery via their Facebook page.

WHAT'S IN YOUR MOUTH?

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Brownies make for a tasty snack and whiskey makes for great brownies.

Whiskey brownies pack a mighty bang

Kiran McKee

Who knew that alcohol could be good for baking?

The combination of whiskey and chocolate in the brownie recipe below may raise a few eyebrows, yet nothing but deliciousness will occur from this unusual mix. The alcohol makes the batter super smooth, and although the alcohol itself is burnt away in the baking process, it leaves behind a unique taste reminiscent of cinnamon hearts.

While the brownies bake, the alcohol makes the edges puff up and fold over, creating a crust much like that of pizza. If you are a fan of corner pieces of brownies, this is definitely a recipe for you.

These brownies make a welcome addition to any party table. Although the cinnamon hearts you may use for decoration are only available for Valentine's Day, Fireball whiskey is available year round, making it possible to have these for any party.

The best part of these tasty treats is that while you may get a sugar high, there's no awful whiskey hangover.

CINNAMON-ZAPPED BROWNIES

125 mL (½ cup) butter/margarine
250 mL (1 cup) chocolate chips
2 eggs, gently beaten
2.5 mL (½ teaspoon) vanilla (optional)
79 mL (1/3 cup) Fireball whiskey (or other strong-flavoured whiskey)
158 mL (2/3 cup) brown sugar
125 mL (½ cup) all purpose flour
1.2 mL (¼ teaspoon) baking soda
1.2 mL (¼ teaspoon) salt

Preheat your oven to 350 F degrees , and grease a nine-inch square baking pan.

Place the chocolate chips and butter in a microwavable bowl. Microwave for one minute. Take the bowl out, and stir. Repeat in intervals of 15 seconds at a time until the chocolate chips are melted and the mixture is smooth.

Add the beaten eggs, the vanilla and the whiskey. Beat until combined.

Stir in the sugar, flour, baking soda and salt.

Spread in baking pan and bake for 30 minutes, or until a butterknife comes out clean.

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Anti-Valentine's day is all about the meat

Kailey Willetts

MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC.

It's all about meat on March 14, as guys everywhere pull out their steak knives and drop their pants in celebration of the annual Steak and Blow Job (BJ) Day.

Created as the male-equivalent to Valentines Day, Steak and BJ Day has sparked some controversy since its unofficial emergence as a day of love, with critics saying the holiday can be interpreted as being degrading or oppressing.

Women's Studies and Political Science professor Janni Aragon doesn't see the need to stop people from participating in the day.

"I'm not outraged by it ... I'm not offended by it," she said. "I feel I have bigger issues to worry about."

Aragon first noticed the day last year when some of her students joined a Steak and BJ Day Facebook group. The phenomenon made her smirk.

"It doesn't make me laugh out loud, but it's silly," Aragon said. "I would never join a Facebook group to stop Steak and Blow Job Day."

Lots of UVic students are choosing to celebrate this year as well. Third-year English student Emily Schellinck says she'll be treating her boyfriend on March 14.

"I too enjoy a good medium rare steak," Schellinck said. "And blow jobs are a nice way to make a guy remember why exactly he's with you ... It's kind of like, hey, remember that time we just started dating and I won you over with my supreme oral skills? Ya — still got it."

For those of us who choose to celebrate — whether because you think your partner deserves it or you just really enjoy laying some lip — there are a lot of little extras that can make this day special.

History

Steak and BJ Day was first brought to public attention in 2002 by Tom Birdsey, a radio host in Boston, Massachusetts. However, Birdsey said the day's origins go back 10 years to his early 20s.

"We were at a strip joint one night and we were thinking how Valentine's Day is just for the girls — it really is," said Birdsey, who has been married for eight years. "Can you picture a mechanic getting sent roses? ... Guys don't get sent flowers on Valentine's Day."

To Birdsey and his friends, this didn't seem quite fair.

"So we thought there should be a man Valentine's Day," he said. "We figured 'ah we'd just want a great piece of meat, a big steak you know, and a blowjob.'"

Steak and BJ day sat under the radar until Birdsey became a radio host.

"For the first couple years I was on radio I didn't talk about it," he said.

But, he added, his show was very interactive and was always hosting contests, so eventually the time came to promote Steak and BJ Day to his audience.

From there, things took off. Readers were calling in with ideas, and asking for suggestions. One listener even bought a website, steakandbjday.com.

"It was like putting a match in a gallon of gas — it just took off," said Birdsey.

Birdsey has been interviewed all over the world since the founding of this day, with stories in publications like Playboy and Maxim.

But, said Birdsey, Steak and BJ Day isn't just for pleasing men.

"It's a way for people to have sex," he said. "People that are married don't have that much sex — I don't give a shit who you guys are. Steak and BJ Day is just another reason to get people to come together."

The steak

"When it comes to picking out steak, it all depends really what you like," said Birdsey. "You just cook it to however that person wants it cooked."

That being said, choosing the right steak is imperative. Don't buy some $1.99 discount shelf, oddly-brown-coloured marinating steak. Go to the deli counter and pick a grilling steak like a rib or loin cut — Thrifty's has some nice medallions. A good steak is a nice red colour, with creamy white fat.

"Don't get a sirloin steak whatever you do," said Birdsey. "The more it costs the better it is, typically."

Nothing says "I don't actually love you" like an overcooked steak, so cooking the steak properly is imperative.

There are several methods to cook a steak. Here are some tips from Askmen.com's article, "Cook the perfect steak."

1. The best method for cooking a tasty piece of meat is the classic BBQ or grill. And you'll get the best results if you let the steak reach room temperature before cooking.

2. If you don't have a BBQ there are still tasty cooking options. One favourite is sear roasting. Sear one side of the steak in a hot-oiled frying pan over high heat. Then flip it over and cook in an oiled pan at 425 degrees F in the oven for five to 10 minutes, depending on your desired done-ness.

3. Because cooking time varies greatly depending on the thickness of your meat, a good indication is the internal temperature. A rare steak, for example, has an internal temperature of 250 degrees. Of course, there's always the cut-open-and-look-inside test, but be careful not to drain the juices (dry up) and overcook with this method.

4. No matter what cooking method you chose, try not to poke at your steak too much — you don't want it to lose its juices. And don't ruin the steak with any frilly, sweet marinades. Salt, pepper or other seasonings are all you need.

Vegetarian options

Not everyone is into eating animals, but that doesn't mean veggie lovers shouldn't get to participate in Steak and BJ Day.

There limitless meat alternatives. A faux-steak is one substitute, but a tastier alternative may be a veggie burger.

If you want to move away from the beef-esque soy compounds, tofurkey is a versatile treat. Slather whatever you cook in BBQ sauce, and you won't believe it's not meat.

But ultimately, just cook your partner whatever they want. That's the spirit of the day, isn't it?

The blow job

Those of us who are penally inclined probably think we give pretty damned good head. However, like most aspects of sex, what's good differs from person to person. Most guys don't like teeth, for example, but there're always a few who enjoy it. Don't fret — there are some universal tips that will get almost any guy's gears spinning.

Schellinck's boyfriend, third-year biology student Bain Konway, shared some of his favorite moves.

"Okay, you know that thing with the tongue?" he said, referring to making sure tongue play gets a lot of attention during the act. "Ya. Just do that, and then do it again. Also, don't be afraid to use that hand, but be careful — not too much hand."

There are also a few instant killers.

"Don't try to bend what doesn't bend," warned third-year philosophy student Andy Park. "[And] deep-throating is boring and sucks. Don't do it."

However, the best tip is to pay attention to how he's reacting.

"I can't help you out with how to give a blow job," said Birdsey. "Girls, hopefully they know how to do that."

Birdsey has a few suggestions for an exciting lead-up, however. One of them is give your man a card in the morning, so he's thinking about what's going to happen that night all day long. And when the time finally comes?

"Make sure you have red lipstick on so when you walk in your boyfriend or husband will know," said Birdsey.

If you really want to blow his mind (pun intended) try going down on him while he's eating the steak.

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Watchmen a worthy spectacle

Jordan C. Hanford

PROVIDED IMAGE

Carla Gugino plays Silk Spectre in the new superhero epic *Watchmen*.

When there's talk that a novel — graphic or other wise — is going to be made into a movie, fans always fear that it won't do the book justice.

Fans of Alan Moore's revolutionary graphic novel were very worried. But they shouldn't have been. *Watchmen* is utterly fantastical. The film successfully manages to deliver award-winning creator Moore's work from page to screen in all the epic grandeur that its ambitious story arc demands without at all coming across as too pretentious.

Director Zack Snyder (*300*, *Dawn of the Dead*) has done a substantial job of staying absolutely true to the original concept of Moore's plot and characters.

Set in an alternative 1985 America, the plot centers around the premise that the Cold War threat of nuclear armageddon looms large as the "Dooms Day Clock" ticks down to impending mass chaos and social destruction, all while a tight-knit community of superheroes is slowly being eradicated from within.

The storyline is interwoven with several impressive historical elements, and figures that are incorporated into intriguing scenarios of "what ifs," placing the heroes centrally into past real-life markers of politically-based world-changing events.

Visually, *Watchmen* is stunning; ripe with unique and spectacular conceptualizations and cinematography that will raise the special effects bars for sci-fi/fantasy films to come.

However, it is noticeably at its weakest (and slowest) in its attempts at certain character developments. Despite providing ample back stories, there is definitely something lost and it fails to evoke the empathy it seeks to establish. That is probably to be expected, however, in a production of this magnitude — and one that comes with such a lofty and complicated plot line.

The only real problem with this movie is in the casting. It is a virtual list of whose that's and begs the question of whether or not too much of its massive budget went into effects, leaving just enough loose change for C and D-list actors. Regardless, there are some standout performances that will undoubtedly catapult the big screen acting careers of a couple of its stars.

Most notably Billy Crudup (*Almost Famous*) as Jon Osterman a.k.a. Dr. Manhattan, the nuclear physicist turned blue omniscient being and guardian of the world with the ability to bend and manipulate matter, and Jeffery Dean Morgan's (Grey's Anatomy) portrayal of Edward Blake, a.k.a. the Comedian, a sociopathic vigilantly. Jackie Earl Haley, who played Kelly the obnoxious rebel kid from the original 1977 *Bad News Bears* flick, also provides a buyable performance as Walter Kovacs, a.k.a. Rorschach, another "mask" with a psychotic chip on his shoulder and a general hate-on for all criminals. Carla Gugino (*Sin City*, *Spy Kids*) is a welcome addition to the ensemble as the aging heroine Silk Spectre turned retired alcoholic, but doesn't receive nearly enough screen time.

Matthew Goode (*Matchpoint*) — not the singer — provides the mastermind genius super hero turned philosophical villain, Ozymandian, who believes that in order to save the world from its own inevitable self destruction, millions must die to preserve the future of billions. But Goode becomes a poor choice of actor whom is neither convincing nor compelling as the film's misguided antagonist.

Watchmen is destined to become a cult classic, and it has set high standards for future movie makers.

Whether this type of movie is your thing or not, it's one that is well worth experiencing in a theatre on the big screen. *Watchmen* is a must see purely for the majestic spectacle of it.

Students flock to iPhone workshops

Wendy Gillis
CUP CENTRAL BUREAU CHIEF

WENDY GILLIS PHOTO (CUP)

iPhones give access to everything from the Internet to light sabers.

SASKATOON (CUP) – With things like lolcats, Spanish lessons, Facebook and the Ralph Lauren collection, it would seem that every potential iPhone application has already been dreamed up.

But, a group of students and iPhone enthusiasts at the University of Saskatchewan are learning skills that could lead to the creation of even more programs for the popular Apple gadget.

Canada's only iPhone and iPod Touch workshops and panel discussions, called iPhone U, are teaching necessary skills to design, write and market potential applications — and the knowledge could not come at a better time.

Despite the slumping economy causing a slight decline in the need for computer programmers, demand for iPhone-savvy programmers has surged by 500 per cent, according to a recent study by the online outsourcing firm, oDesk.

Dozens of potential programmers are clambering to gain the knowledge, says Eric Neufeld, head of the Computer Science Department at the U of S, who organized the workshops.

Seats for February's two workshops were filled within hours of registration opening. Two more have been scheduled for late March.

Over the two-day workshops, students will gain the skills to build three or four basic applications for the iPhone or iPod Touch, including a simple browser, a photo display and a list mechanism. Participants must be familiar with basic computer programming languages, such as Objective C and Javascript.

The idea for the workshops arose when a group of students, faculty and one former Apple employee — collectively calling themselves the Apple Corps — started getting together every Friday morning, attempting to learn the science behind the new technology.

"It really shows off the agility of a computer science degree," said Neufeld. "Once you have the basic knowledge, it takes relatively little effort to learn the new technologies, no matter how exotic."

Johannes Lindenbaum, a computer science undergraduate student, was among the future programmers, having taken both sessions last month.

Lindenbaum, also an employee at an online computer programming agency, says having phone programming skills is an asset to both his studies and his work.

"I have been looking to get more into the iPhone programming, and it was a great way to meet people in the industry," he said.

Lindenbaum says he is planning to attend the second workshop in March, which will offer more advanced training.

Great albums from our home and native land

New albums from indie Canadian acts rock from coast to coast, while the Killers' third offering fails to redeem

Seperation Anxiety
Cadence Weapon
NO LABEL

Contrary to the title of his new mix tape, Cadence Weapon's latest album does not cause my ears any anxiety whatsoever.

Seperation Anxiety is the Edmonton native's third album, following up 2005's *Breaking Kayfabe* and 2008's *Afterparty Babies*. Weapon continues to hold down the Western Canadian hip-hop scene, and it marks the first time Weapon (whose real name is Rollie Pemberton) has compiled a mix tape since the 2005 underground success *Cadence Weapon is the Blackhand*.

Seperation Anxiety is a diverse sonic collage that borders on the genres of electronic, hip-hop, techno and hipster indie. Aside from the question of the album's true genre, the 20-track compilation contains some new material, a bonus track and a few collaborative remixes with artists such as Roots Manuva and the Cansecos.

Weapon stays true to the funky Nintendo-beat synthesized keyboard melodies of his previous albums, and many songs possess a strong hipster, indie feel. But *Seperation Anxiety* possesses an added techno influence, noticeable in "Pretty Girls Make Raves," "Bad Graffiti," "Roll With the Winners" and "House Music Medley."

Seperation Anxiety also contains more serious hip-hop compositions than Pemberton is typically known for, and his seriousness is reflected in tracks such as "Morning After," which scrutinizes the frustrating dynamics of an unsalvageable relationship, as well as "Kennedy Curse," where Weapon drops clever rhymes criticizing his hip-hop colleagues for sounding too generic and repetitive. However, none of Weapon's new tracks compare to my personal favorite, the remix entitled, "Sex with My Ex," an anthem to tricky break-ups, which screams of classic Weapon.

Pemberton's fan base, which currently spans across Canada, the U.S. and the U.K., can only grow after adopting the pay-what-you-want marketing technique for *Seperation Anxiety* 's release. Like Radiohead fans, enthusiasts of Weapon's music are able to access his album via his website, and can submit compensation for *Seperation Anxiety* at whatever price their hearts desire. They can even pledge to donate later, or get it for free under certain conditions.

Weapon stays true to his style and diverse sound on *Seperation Anxiety*, while building on that same unique brand of music. I can sincerely assert that *Seperation Anxiety* is a far more pleasurable experience than sex with my ex.

- Dorian Geiger

Day & Age
The Killers
ISLAND RECORDS

Day & Age, the Killers' third studio album, is a failed attempt at redemption from the band's lackluster second offering *Sam's Town*.

The Killers have now drifted so far into a fanciful pop realm that rock fans must be passing on their music, if not passing the ecstasy.

Their debut album *Hot Fuss* expertly married pop inclinations with rock credibility. Copies of the debut disc were able to make comfortable homes in the CD wallets of nightclub starlets, between groups like the Black Eyed Peas and the Pussy Cat Dolls, as well as on the shelves of music snobs, between groups like Joy Division and the Velvet Underground.

Day & Age is filled with grandiose sounds and fantastical imagery that sound like the Killers' divorce hearing with rock and roll. Currently, the heaviest thing about the Killers is lead singer Brandon Flowers' eyeliner.

The extravagant use of horn and string accompaniments, a song about a "Neon Tiger" and "A Dustland Fairytale" give the impression that the Killers wanted Day & Age to have a David Bowie charm. But the Killers' songs are not as coherently packaged as Bowie's cinematic experiences.

Even pop fans are likely to agree that new singles like "Human" and "Spaceman" do not stack up against older hits like Hot Fuss's "All These Things That I've Done," "Mr. Brightside" or even *Sam's Town's* "When You Were Young."

Though others may disagree, in this day and age, the Killers are dead to me.

- Spencer Moyes

Across the Atlantic
Sarah MacDougall
COPPERSPINE RECORDS

"I've been rambling all my life," croons Sarah MacDougall on "Ramblin," the second track on *Across the Atlantic*, her second full-length album. One might, at first listen, write the line off as the 26-year-old artist's attempt to sound worn and sun-beaten. But the Swedish-Canadian MacDougall has lived in Australia, Sweden and B.C., and the rest of this colourful album attests to an emotional maturity and diverse life experiences.

Across the Atlantic is a departure from MacDougall's 2005 debut effort, Headed for the Hills. This album has a similar alt-country feel, but stands out in that it has echoes of MacDougall's Eastern European roots. Some of her accompanying instruments include the dobro and weissenborn. In the title track she moans for the emptiness and nostalgia of her hometown: "And when I look up, the houses are tall/ everything's behind something, this town's built on walls/you can feel the cold chill from behind the closed doors."

Many of the tracks feature Joanna Chapman-Smith as background vocals, but accompaniment is almost unnecessary. MacDougall's pure, round voice and her acoustic guitar let the haunting lines run off perfectly without sounding sticky-sweet or overdone.

The album's repeated themes of sorrow, falling and rolling and heartbreak reveal a writer comfortable with her own life story. The "Ballad of Sherri" — about a young woman's search for meaning — and the telling end track, "Goodbye Julie," are miles different in tone, but they both showcase a vocalist who can admit she doesn't know where she's going and does so artfully.

As the artist, composer, and mixer, MacDougall's stamp is everywhere on this album, making for a rich listen. She's a wistful, bitter traveler, but an honest one with a voice that can stand on its own.

- Emma Prestwich

Howe Sounds/Taking Abalonia
Said the Whale
POP MACHINE

The lyrics "Let's go back to the coast, baby, westward to the ocean," from Said the Whale's track "Howe Sounds" completely encapsulates the budding Vancouver band. The four indie rockers are so west coast, it would be no surprise if they crapped seashells.

Said the Whale's debut LP *Howe Sounds/Taking Abalonia* is chockfull of great tunes stemming from a feel-good approach to music. If a particular line is especially catchy, the group repeats it. If a song feels complete, they don't bother adding a lengthy guitar solo. In fact, five of the 15 tracks on the album fall short of the two-minute mark.

"Curse of Currents" stands out as the album's longest and saddest song. It's a five-minute dirge about the unforeseen death of a lover, a storyline reminiscent of Wayne Cochran's "Last Kiss." Said the Whale's song, however, has a coastal twist with the object of affection falling from a boat, only to be swept away by the current of the Georgia Strait.

"Live off the Lamb" exemplifies the influence of Oregon indie rockers The Shins on Said the Whale, directly channeling The Shins' whimsical lead singer James Mercer.

Other gems, like the love-struck "The Light is You," are perfect for putting a smile on your face as you wax your skim board, haul on your bong, mend your Cowichan sweater or perform some other activity that qualifies as "straight west coastin'."

For those imported UVic students who are less familiar with the lifestyle, you may nonetheless find yourselves back home one day, longing for that salty Pacific air. If so, throw on a little Said the Whale. They'll take you back to the coast, baby, westward to the ocean.

- Spencer Moyes

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Meraloma grinds past UVic for 38-28 victory

Vikes slip to sixth place in Canadian Direct Insurance Premier League standings after second consecutive loss

Andrew Smith

The Vikes definitely missed their enforcers Adam Kleeberger and Neil Meechan on Saturday, March 7, as they took on a powerful Meraloma side on Wallace Field.

Well aware of the Vikes lethal backline scoring abilities, Meraloma kept the ball in tight and forced the Vikes back for most of the match through pick-and-drive tactics.

It rained, snowed and the sun shone during the 80 minutes of rugby, but the visitors were the side to capitalize on the poor conditions through short, quick passes to keep the Vikes at bay.

After edging the Vikes back towards their own try through several grinding phases of rugby, Meraloma's scrum half Eric Wilson fed Sam Jenkins at top speed, who broke through for the first points of the match. Meraloma's Shawn Mercier and Brian Erichsen would punch in two more tries to lead 19-0.

UVic would respond through some crafty play by fly half Nathan Hirayama. After flattening Meraloma's quick defence, Hirayama kicked through for John Moonlight to run onto the ball. The forward blitzed past his tacklers to get the Vikes on the score board.

After converting Moonlight's try and a difficult penalty through heavy winds, Hirayama closed the gap 19-10 at the half.

Meraloma stuck to their forward play as they pounded the Vikes deep into their own half. After pushing the Vikes past their 22, Meraloma fly half Jake Hirst blitzed through his tacklers to spread the lead 24-10.

As the snow began to fall, Hirayama would notch six more points through his kicking abilities before Meraloma answered with try scoring runs.

After a well-supported run that changed hands between five of the Meraloma's forward pack, Shawn Mercier would touch down beneath the posts for another five points.

Despite being down 33-16, the Vikes climbed their way back into the match. After feeding the ball out to Ben Grant for five points, UVic's Kyle Buckley sprinted past five tacklers to make it 33-28.

Meraloma again responded with well supported runs by their forward pack, and eventually saw Dave Biddle force his way over to take the lead 38-28.

> "We scored a couple of nice pick and drive tries that sort of put the game out of reach for them."
>
> – Eric Wilson
> Meraloma
> scrum half

After the final whistle, Meraloma scrum half Eric Wilson spoke of his side's adjustments against UVic.

"We definitely kept the ball in the forwards a bunch. We have a pretty dynamic backline this year but playing against UVic [who] certainly has strong runners, we decided to keep the ball in tight," Wilson said.

"I think we had an advantage there so we scored a couple of nice pick and drive tires that sort of put the game out of reach for them."

After suffering their second consecutive loss, the Vikes now slip to sixth place in the Canadian Direct Insurance Premier League standings with 20 points, with one game in hand.

On Saturday, March 14, UVic will take on a tough Castaway Wanderers side that recently thumped the UBC Thunderbirds by a score of 46-26.

Meraloma now advances to second place with just two points between them and table leaders Capilano.

YURI CHOUFOUR PHOTO

Kyle Buckley managed to outrun five tacklers on Saturday, March 7, to score a try for the Vikes against Meraloma.

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Vikes battle high winds, choppy water against OSU

Philippe Granger

The Oregon State Beavers paid UVic a visit last weekend as they traveled north of the border to take on the Vikes for the dual race rowing regatta.

Most of the Saturday morning, March 7, races between UVic, Oregon State University (OSU) and UBC had to deal with choppy seas and a constant cross wind as the boats came down the 2,000-metre course on Elk Lake. But the crews fought long and hard to claim the victories in their respective categories.

The men's varsity eight-plus had the best UVic result of the day by beating OSU and UBC for the win, whereas the women's four-plus had the best UVic women's race of the day by placing second by a mere 0.6 seconds to the OSU crew.

The UVic's men's eight-plus pulled a final time of 6:24 to beat the NCAA Beavers crew by four seconds. UBC's eight-plus finished third with a time of 6:36. UVic had a quick start but did not start to pull away from the OSU crew until the first 500 metres. With a six to seven second lead at the 1,500-metre mark, UVic saw the Beavers' eight-plus gaining water on them down the home stretch and quickly closing in on their lead. But it was too little too late for OSU, as UVic crossed the finish line first.

The winning Vikes' eight-plus crew was made up of Mike Mason, Josh Morris, Doug Csima, Tom Bailey, Pete Brooks, Richard Herlinveaux, Tom Watson and Eric Tremblay, with cox Jane Gumley leading them to victory.

"The UVic guys never looked threatened," said Vikes men's rowing coach Paul Hawksworth. "We've had some close races with OSU in the past and they're a strong team. Last year the varsity eight-plus lost to OSU by 1.5 seconds, and the junior varsity eight-plus by 13.5 seconds. To have reversed these results heavily in our own favor speaks to the level of commitment to training and performance we've seen from the guys this year."

In the other men's races, the UVic junior varsity eight-plus beat out the Oregon freshmen eight-plus by 10 seconds, with finals times for UVic of 6:43 and OSU with 6:53. The UVic men's novice four-plus finished second with a time of 7:55, 12 seconds behind Oregon State. The women's races were well fought but, unfortunately for UVic, OSU dominated in the varsity eight-plus and the novice eight-plus categories.

"We are young and have a lot of work to do," said UVic women's rowing coach Rick Crawley.

The Vikes women's varsity four-plus crew showed a good performance, as they developed a three-boat advantage on OSU, but in the final 1,000 metres they were blown off course by winds, and ended with a final time of 8:30.9. OSU crossed the finish line a mere 0.6 seconds ahead, for a final time of 8:30.3.

"We should have won this one, but our crew had a couple of our lightweights [racing] in it," Crawley said about the narrow varsity four-plus defeat.

LIGHTCRAFTERS PHOTOGRAPHY

The UVic women's varsity rowing eight-plus crew were blown off course by heavy winds on March 7, and lost to the Oregon State Beavers.

Next up on the Vikes' rowing schedule is the Brown Cup, which will be a head race held in Richmond, B.C. It will be hosted by UBC and will take place on the Fraser River on March 28. The novice crews from UBC and UVic will race the Brown Cup course on the March 21 to give a preview of what will be to come.

UVic will face their rivals from Point Grey and look to continue the dominance on the women's side, which will see them go for a record 17th-consecutive win. The men will hope to rebound from their Brown Cup lost last season and rekindle their past winning ways.

Local Victoria runners take to the lake for HIV/AIDS

Danielle Pope

Students and Victoria residents alike will be lacing up their sneakers this weekend to raise money for HIV/AIDS in Africa — and they'll be doing it around a lake near you.

The first-annual Victoria Sala Hantle ("stay well") Africa Walk and Fun Run will kick off this Sunday, March 15, at Elk Lake, in an effort to support two locally-based international aid organizations involved in Southern Africa: the Victoria International Development Education Association (VIDEA), and the Salt Spring Organization for Life Improvement and Development (SOLID).

The event will feature a five-km walk and a 10-km run, with proceeds going directly to the two groups.

"In my experience it's always satisfying to participate in these [kinds of] events," said UVic masters graduate Richard Morrow, VIDEA's board chair. "It can be good motivation to get out and exercise. It's also an opportunity to support local organizations who are working to reduce extreme poverty and improve access to health and education in Southern Africa."

Morrow will be a participant in this year's run. But while he calls himself a casual runner, he stays active in the local circuit.

"I try to run in a 10-km event once or twice a year to help inspire me to get out and run more often," Morrow said. "In this case, I'm participating because I really support the work of both of these organizations and, in part, because it's good motivation to start running again."

Anna Callegari, a former UVic student who transferred to the University of B.C., and one of the founding directors of SOLID, was key in creating this year's Victoria run — and the one that began last year at UBC.

Callegari has travelled to Africa twice on volunteer stints, and says she was directly exposed to how critical support in the area needs to be, particularly when it come to the health concerns of the communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

"Our current economic climate has created challenges and difficulties for even our closest neighbors," she said. "It is critical at this time that we keep vigilant in our efforts to assist grassroots projects in Sub-Saharan Africa, as the impact felt by our poverty-afflicted partners may prove catastrophic."

After the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences heard about Callegari's volunteer experiences in providing direct patient care for people suffering from HIV/AIDS in Africa, the faculty volunteered to host last year's run, which raised over $11,500 for SOLID. Those funds, Callegari says, provided direct financial aid to HIV/AIDS support and care institutions in Malawi, Swaziland and Lesotho, and also went toward providing medical supplies, pharmaceutical drugs and other supplies for health-related work. Some funds were even specifically donated for palliative care for AIDS victims in their last weeks of life.

This year, to address a higher number of participants and to up last year's ante, the run will be held in two locations — at Elk Lake in Victoria, and on the UBC campus in Vancouver.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Former UVic students Anna Callegari (left) and Richard Marrow are helping to organize Victoria's first Sala Hantle Africa Walk and Fun Run.

Callegari says both SOLID and VIDEA will continue raising funds not only to assist African community-led projects, but also to raise awareness of the relentless struggle that global neighbors in HIV/AIDS communities face daily.

In Malawi, for example, which is bordered by Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia, it is estimated that 54 per cent of people live below the poverty line, and over 1,000,000 children are orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS. In some areas of Malawi, up to 33 per cent of the population is infected with HIV/AIDS.

This past fall, volunteers from VIDEA travelled to Lundazi and Zambia, delivering educational and medical supplies, mosquito bed nets (to protect against malaria) and soccer balls. The volunteers also visited schools, health clinics, farms and water points to explore opportunities for working together — but all that takes funds. So, the organizations combined forces in this weekend's run, and added an online fundraising option to help subsidize the costs of the Africa trips and needed materials.

Morrow said that while winning isn't usually the goal in this kind of a run, competition is still part of the fun.

"I think most people are running, or walking, just to finish or to meet a personal goal — as well as support a good cause," he said. "[But] I expect there will be a few serious runners out who are also there to compete. I'm just aiming to finish and enjoy myself."

Winning may not be the aim of the race, but for the $25 entry fee, a few locally-donated prizes could make it worth trying a little harder.

The Sala Hantle top fundraiser will be rewarded a weekend getaway on Salt Spring Island, while the male winner of the race will receive a Running Room gift pack and the female winner will receive a lululemon gift pack. The top walker will receive a six-month membership at Curves.

Callegari hopes to see many faces out Sunday morning.

"This is a wonderful, organic, and grassroots way to show your support for our African global neighbors, [and] potentially get involved in volunteering yourself," Callegari said. "And [not only is it] doing something worthwhile with your Sunday morning — it's also a great chance to get fit."

Sunday's run in will start at 8 a.m. at the Beaver Lake Shelter, beside Elk Lake. For more information on how to register or fundraise, visit staywellafrica.com, or call the VIDEA office at 250-385-2333.

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Hard work pays off for UVic's triathletes

Jin Mullen

On Sunday, March 8, a dedicated group of individuals were gearing up for their highlight of the year — University of B.C.'s annual triathlon. Despite the possiblity of snow and rain, UVic's triathlon club was ready to put their training and skills to the ultimate test.

Every week, the UVic triathlon club trains over 50 members in swimming, biking and running. These athletes are serious when it comes to training as they push themselves to the extreme six times a week, with many putting in their own time after practice hours.

Triathlon veteran Bronwyn Churcher says there are a number of reasons club members choose to participate in the grueling workouts.

"They are a great group of people, so it's not just about going for a bike ride," Churcher said. "It's about being with friends, the love of the sport and the fact you can set goals for yourself."

The club doesn't just stress the importance of training, but also puts emphasis on creating a fun environment. There are parties, potlucks and bake-sales, which give members a chance to socialize and to enjoy themselves. Experienced athletes often are available and willing to help out new triathletes. Athletes of all skills are welcome with triathlon champions training alongside the rookies.

Despite the dreary weather forecast, Sunday was a great day and the sun was shining constantly. The distance of this race is an 800 metre swim, 20-kilometer bike ride and a five-km run, in that order. This event was hosted at UBC in Vancouver on campus.

After enduring grueling workouts including three one-hour swim sessions a week, going up to between 2.5 and 3.2 kilometers in each sitting. On Mondays, they train for distance. Wednesdays, the focus is on intervals, short threshold and harder sessions. Fridays are dedicated to the technical aspect of training.

On Tuesdays, the sessions include member-led rides, in which participants ride at a casual pace. Despite the rides being "casual," however, this dedicated group of individuals trains regardless of the conditions — rain or shine (or sometimes snow). Saturday mornings involve bike rides coached by Rick Thiessen, who trains them with repeat runs of the Observatory hill — a route that includes 200 vertical meters in just over two km.

On Thursdays, there is an afternoon run. Their warm-up run is on the chip trail surrounding campus. Afterward, they head to the track for speed sessions or to Mount Tolmie for hill repeats.

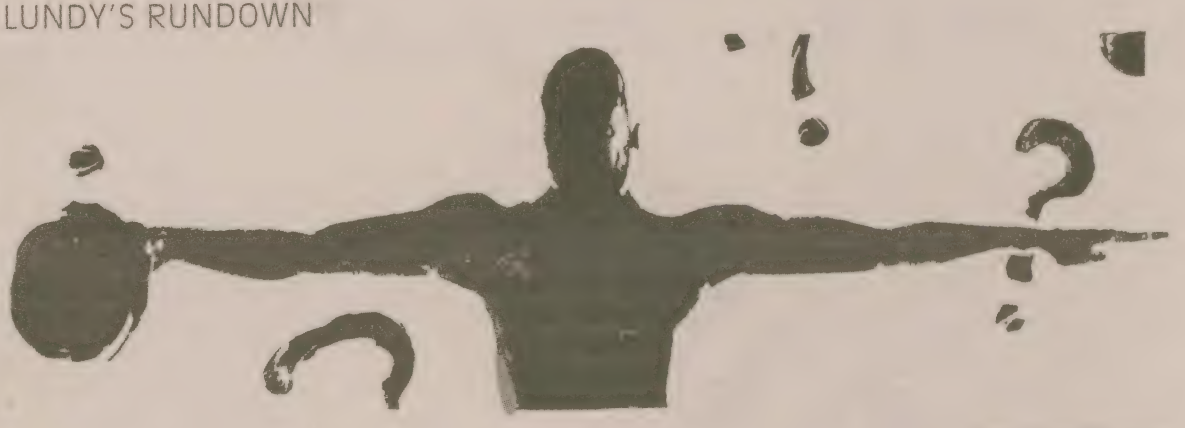
The group's hard work paid off during the triathlon as Mark Schurch, Kylie Acford, Anna Dahonick and Bronwyn Churcher were in the top 25 for the sprint race. Claire Da Niels had a strong performance in the Olympic part of the race. The olympic part, meaning an extended distance to the swimming, biking and running. The distances are 1.5 km for the swim, 40 km for the bike ride and 10 km run.

Club president Anna Dahonick spoke of things people discover about themselves during the process of triathlon training.

"It really helps you figure out what you can and are capable of doing physically and mentally," Dahonick said. "Especially during harsh weather conditions like the rain."

This great group of people love the sport and anyone willing to challenge themselves should join this club. These triathletes consider this to be more than just a sport, but a lifestyle.

LUNDY'S RUNDOWN



MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

Recession to hit pro basketball

Matt Lundy

That nasty little word "recession" has crept its way into the discussion of sports and business. Despite published reports of an increase in NBA game attendance — a figure skewed by season ticket and luxury suite purchases made before the financial downfall — the economic state of individual franchises can be judged by their creative ticket packages.

A quick jaunt to the Toronto Raptors ticket website shows the "Johnnie Walker Scotch Tasting Package," a night which offers a scotch tasting and hors d'oeuvre session prior to the game.

Other packages feature similar levels of alcoholism and regret, including the "Miller Genuine Draft Guys Night Out" package, in which you and three buddies can get loaded, eat hot dogs, and make fools of yourselves in front of the Raptors cheerleaders. Heck, you can even use your new MGD toque as a barf bag.

Similar ticket promotions have popped up around a league which fears the potential financial repercussions of the next couple seasons. The NBA's commissioner, David Stern, has even borrowed $200 million from JPMorgan and Chase and Bank of America, with between $13 million and $20 million available to a dozen NBA franchises in need.

Here is a look at four teams the recession will hit hardest:

Charlotte Bobcats

Between the University of North Carolina and Duke University men's basketball teams, the state of North Carolina invests their time in collegiate sports — a far cry from a universe in which Emeka Okafor, centre with the Bobcats, will make $14.5 million in the 2013 to 2014 season. The entire Bobcats roster is riddled with terrible contracts for average players like Okafor.

The Bobcats also rank 27th out of 30 NBA teams in attendance, a figure which will continue to drop in the next couple of seasons.

Detroit Pistons

This entry might shock the NBA purist who counters that the Pistons rank first in league attendance with nearly 22,000 fans per evening. Yet Detroit — which forms the Rust Belt along with Cleveland, Buffalo and other blue-collar towns — has seen an overwhelming amount of job loss in the area's auto-manufacturing and parts-manufacturing jobs.

According to Richard Florida in an article from this month's issue of the Atlantic, the average home price in Detroit is a meager 18 grand. Between rising levels of unemployment, a lack of automotive companies to buy luxury suites at the arena, and a historically passive Pistons squad, this great basketball city could be crippled in only a short time.

Sacramento Kings

If the recent fire sale in Sacramento was any indication, the Kings want to shed money quick. On the NBA's trade deadline, the Kings dealt Brad Miller and John Salmons, two of their better players, to the Chicago Bulls in an effort to cut down on costs. Since the breakneck pace of Kings' teams from earlier this decade, Sacramento has failed to put a worthwhile product on the floor. And the effects are being felt at the box office. The Kings rank last in the league in attendance with only 12,000 fans per game. In other words, when Beno Udrih is your starting point guard, it's time to reevaluate the direction of your team.

Philadelphia 76ers

Like Detroit, Philadelphia ranks as one of America's great sports towns. Yet unlike Detroit fans, Philadelphians have already fled their team's arena for cozier confines.

The greatest problem for the 76ers, heading into the recession, is the irresponsible spending conducted by current general manager Ed Stefanski, and former general manager Billy King. Stefanski signed power forward Elton Brand, coming off an injury-plagued season in which he played eight games, to a five-year $80 million contract. This season he played 29 games before a dislocated shoulder ended his season.

Similar contracts of astronomical hilarity have been thrown at players like Andre Iguodala and Samuel Dalembert. And if the local publishing industry is any indication (the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Philadelphia Daily News went bankrupt in late February) incoming advertising will be scarce, even from liquor companies looking to get you and your buddies soused on a Tuesday night.

TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 10, 2009

1. SHEARING PINX *
   Ultra Snake (Endless Latino)
2. VARIOUS ARTISTS
   Dark Was The Night (4AD)
3. PLATINUM PIED PIPERS
   Abundance (Ubiquity)
4. DAN AUERBACH
   Keep It Hid (Nonesuch)
5. JULIE DOIRON *
   I Can Wonder What You Did With Your Day (Endearing)
6. DD/MM/YYYY *
   Black Square (We Are Busy Bodies)
7. MR. SCRUFF
   Ninja Tuna (Ninja Tune)
8. THE MEMORIES ATTACK *
   LP2 (Noyes)
9. ABE VIGODA
   Reviver EP (PPM)
10. JERK WARD †
    Too Young To Thrash (Supreme Echo)

* Canadian artist † local artist

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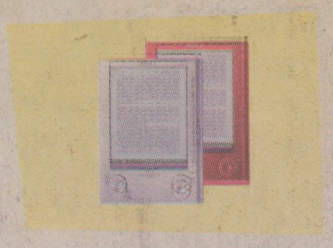


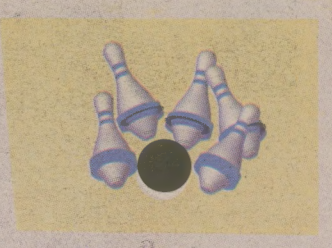
SONY

READER DIGITAL BOOKS

SONY

XROSS FADE

DJ SYSTEMS



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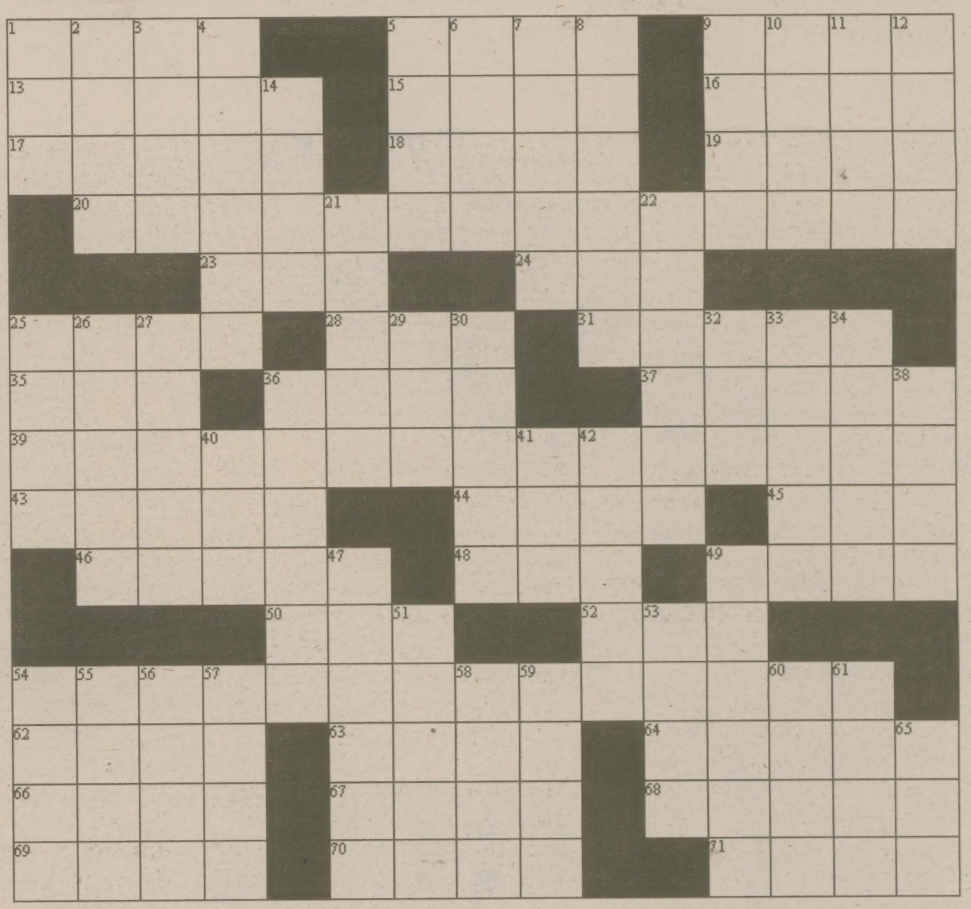
The Ontarion Crossword by Krystian Imgrum (CUP)



Across

1 Indonesian island
5 Emcee
9 Unsolicited e-mails
13 Mark
15 Opera part
16 Trawler's catch
17 Social tier
18 Tragic king
19 Actor Alda
20 Winfrey's pigment?
23 And not
24 ___ better to be silent...
25 Roman poet
28 Notable bounty hunter
31 Hoodwinked
35 Was in track
36 Bosc or El Dorado
37 Counselled
39 Conifer option?
43 Biblical plague
44 Small birds
45 Taxi
46 Archaeologist's find
48 Singer DiFranco
49 Ancient European
50 Controversial org.
52 Born
54 "___ didn't say bananas?"
62 Margaret Mitchell setting
63 Modern quills
64 Digression
66 Muslim priest
67 Ontario's neighbour
68 Always antonym
69 Consumer's delight
70 Fast planes: abbr.
71 Beloved

Down

1 T.V. station
2 I smell ___
3 Whip strike
4 Plan
5 Vestibule
6 Bread spread
7 Initiate
8 Dormant
9 Hollywood accolade
10 Fruit flesh
11 Nit-picky
12 Horse feature
14 Geometric art style
21 Mandate
22 Supplants
25 Globes
26 Bravery
27 Habituate
29 Portaging need
30 Actress Garbo
32 Part of ppm
33 Elicit
34 Design transfer
36 Is in a tableau
38 Credit's counterpart
40 Japanese delicacy
41 Commotion
42 Wasp weapon
47 French desserts
49 Halted
51 Australian rock
53 Enthusiasm
54 Singer Redding
55 Hindu idol
56 Russian sea
57 Identifier
58 "Jump ___"
59 Applications
60 Plunge
61 Light bulb illuminator
65 Mistake

ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Icons of a Border: A Photographic Search for Traces in Today's Berlin
All Day, Every Day
McPherson Library, Gallery
The exhibit highlights the photographic exploration of 36 students from the University of Paderborn who documented both the visible and invisible remnants of the Berlin Wall in modern day Germany.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-6313
Maltpub@finearts.uvic.ca

Rebels and Realists: 100 Years of the Victoria Sketch Club
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
University Centre, B115
The exhibition features over 50 of the club's best-known artists including Josephine Crease, Sophie Pemberton, W.P Weston, Thomas Fripp, Emily Carr, Max Maynard, Jack Shadbolt, Ina Uhthoff. Katharine Maltwood, Stella Langdale and Edythe Hembroff.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-6313
curator@uvic.ca

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

Racketlon Tournament
4 - 11 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday
Ian Stewart Complex
Racketlon consists of 4 sports: tennis, squash, badminton and table tennis. Each participant plays their opponent in each of the four sports. Four Divisions: Men's Novice, Men's Open, Women's Novice, Women's Open.
Register online at vikesrec.uvic.ca, or in person at either the ISC front desk, or McKinnon Gym equipment desk.
Fee: $25
Info: 250-721-7282

Thomas Eulgem: Dissecting plant defense signaling by chemical and molecular genetics
2:30 - 4 p.m.
Cunningham Building, 146
Dr. Eulgem's research focuses on the signal transduction processes involved in plant immunity. He pioneered work on a plant specific class of transcription factors, termed WRKY, and characterized, as a postdoctoral fellow in Jeff Dangl's lab, global gene expression changes in response to plant pathogens.
Fee: Free
Info: bioclerk@uvic.ca

W. B. Yeats: Revivalism, Modernism and the Corrective Gaze
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
David Strong Building, C118
Professor Castle's research interests are primarily in Irish studies, with emphases in the Irish revival, nationalism, education and literary and cultural history, though his work on the Bildungsroman concerns English as well as Irish writers.
Fee: Free
Info: amitch@uvic.ca

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

From Library Shelves to Laboratory Benches: New Medicines for the 21st Century?
7:30 - 9 p.m.
Bob Wright Centre, B150
Alain's award winning research specializes in the history of medicine and pharmacy in the ancient Mediterranean, working on manuscripts in Greek, Latin and Arabic, as well as on early printed books (15th and 16th Centuries).
Fee: Free
Info: 250-472-4210
khollefr@uvic.ca

Life Drawing
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Visual Arts Building, A150
Open to the public. All skill levels welcome!
Fee: $5
Info: sbean@uvic.ca

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Does the Law Rule? Transitional justice, development and the rule of law in Cambodia
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Human and Social Development Building, A270
The ECCC provides an excellent opportunity to examine issues relating to the rule of law, corruption and transitional justice within the wider development context, and also allows us to question whether, out of atrocity, scepticism, and fear, a sense of understanding, healing and hope can eventually surface.
Fee: Free
Info: capi@uvic.ca

The Greek economic miracle
3:30 - 5 p.m.
MacLaurin Building, A144
In this lecture I will look at some of these finds, ask what might have caused such unprecedented growth, and consider the relationship between economic change and the Greeks' cultural achievements.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8514
sberming@uvic.ca

Islamic Ideas of Justice
7 - 9 p.m.
Fraser Building, 159
Justice in Islam is a personal and social attribute that incorporates notions of equivalence (rather than equality), reciprocity and contextualization. When viewed in terms of larger Muslim cultures, however, we can see how Muslim ideas of causation, time, the unfractionated self and the fear of social chaos all cohere into a pattern whose implications are often misunderstood in the face of prevailing stereotypes.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-6325
csrs@uvic.ca

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

The Twilight of the Gods on Ancient Sicily
3:30 - 5 p.m.
MacLaurin Building, A144
In this lecture I use finds from my excavations at Monte Polizzo, Sicily, to sketch a third picture, seeing Greek colonialism within a ten-thousand-year-long history of the expansion and transformation of west Eurasian societies.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8514
sberming@uvic.ca

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Tough Questions for Religions: Are Religions Mutually Exclusive?
4:30 - 6 p.m.
David Strong Building, C103
The following panelists will present the question, Are Religions Mutually Exclusive? Questions and discussion will follow: Mr. Harold Rosen Harold Rosen, Dr. Louis Sutker, and Dr. Heather Botting.
Fee: Free
Info: chaplain@uvic.ca

Medea Preview
8 p.m.
Phoenix Theatre
Disturbing yet powerful, this Greek tragedy of betrayal and revenge chronicles the passionate story of Medea, a woman whose love ultimately leads to her destruction. Based on the myth of Jason and Medea, it was first produced in 431 BCE and continues to impact audiences today.
Fee: $12 - $25
Info: 250.721.8000
theatre@uvic.ca

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Taking Leisure Seriously
12 - 1 p.m.
Cornette Building, A129
John Meidrum will discuss how the decisions we all make about our leisure time and behaviour impact us throughout our life.
Fee: Free
Info: jmeldrum@uvic.ca

Tracking Down International Work and Volunteer Opportunities
3 - 4:30 p.m.
Campus Services Building, Career Services
A 90 minute workshop on how to effectively use the internet and the new online resource, Going Global, to find international work and volunteer opportunities. Space is limited, so please register in advance at http://www.careerservices.uvic.ca/rsvp/workshops/register.php?workshopid=35.
Fee: Free
Info: jthiesse@uvic.ca

LIVE CONCERTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Open turntables with Jess Taylor @ The Cambie at the Esquimalt Inn
8 p.m.
(No Minors).
Fee: Free

The McGillicuddys, Gypsy Hacks & Insomniacs @ Evolution
9 p.m. - 2 a.m.
(No Minors).
Fee: $8 at the door
$6 in advance

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

The Mosqoy Shindig @ Victoria Events Centre
8 - 10 p.m., doors at 7 p.m.
Prizes for the best get up, most plaid etc. All proceeds go to the Sacred Valley Youth Fund.
Tickets available in the UVSS Sub March 5, 6, & 12 and Lyle's Place. (No minors).
Fee: $15 at the door
$12 in advance

Step Back Dave, Pocket Kings, Illani, Everybody Left @ Lucky Bar
10 p.m.
(No Minors).
Fee: $6

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

Freedom of Sound @ Camas Book and Infoshop
8 - 11 p.m., doors at 7 p.m.
Proceeds support Camas and community.
(All Ages).
Fee: Admission by donation

CLASSIFIEDS

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Clean, secure, indoor lockers. Open 7 days a week. 3952 Quadra Street. Behind the Keg. 250-727-2311

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peer Helping is Recruiting
All Day
Student Union Building, B005
Peer Helping is recruiting for entry of September 09. For more information see our website at www.peerhelping.uvic.ca or e-mail corey@uvic.ca.

Victoria Riding for the Disabled Association provides a therapeutic riding program to children and adults with disabilities. If you enjoy horses and people, this would appeal to you. No experience is necessary, however, volunteers must be 16 years of age or older. Classes are held Monday mornings and Tuesday - Thursday mornings and afternoons.
Classes begin the week of March 30, 2009. Training will be held the week of March 23. For more information please call Sue at 658-6272 or email vrda@shaw.ca.

NEW Mental Health & Addictions support group to Victoria. Meetings Tuesdays 7:30-8:30pm @ 941 Kings Road. For more info contact john.dravictoria@yahoo.com.

Public Forum: Mental Health and Addictions 12 Step group, Dual Recovery Anonymous. Monday, March 23, 7:30 - 9 p.m. @ Blanshard Communtity center.

NDP Club Campus Kickoff: Join current South Island M.L.A's Rob Fleming, Maurine Karagianis, and John Horgan to talk about tuition fee's, public transportation, and sustainability. Food and drink provided.
Thursday March 19th at theMichelle Pujol Room in the Sub.

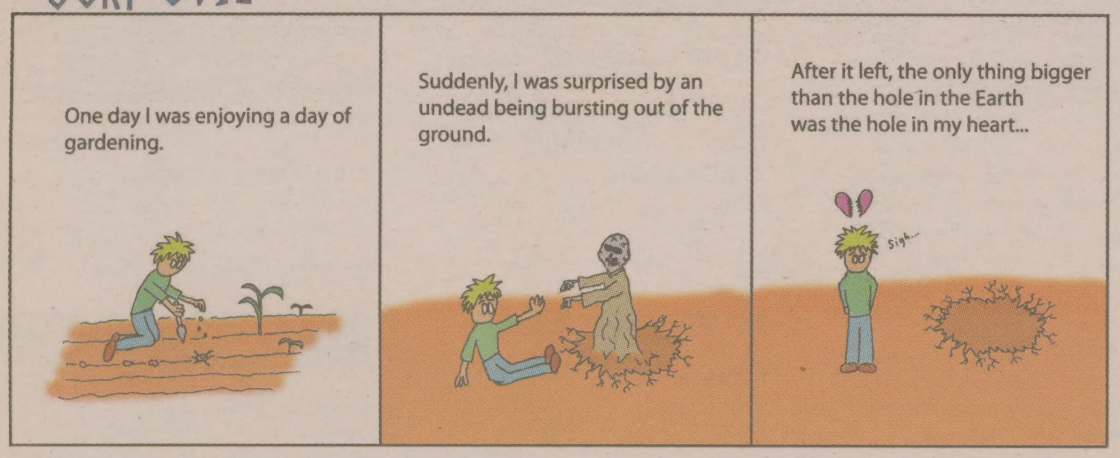
Whether the economy is in the red or in the black, accountants still get paid.

Start this spring with Victoria's leader in accounting education.

Ready for your next step?
Take it at Camosun.
camosun.ca/accounting
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

Comics

CORP EVIL


One day I was enjoying a day of gardening.
Suddenly, I was surprised by an undead being bursting out of the ground.
After it left, the only thing bigger than the hole in the Earth was the hole in my heart...
Sigh...

NORTH-EAST LYNX

Parkmouth by Cole Roche

Cracks pretty bad for you, huh?
Yeah, but so are reckless sexual partnerships.
Or reckless sexual partners...?
Maybe...
It'll be fun! I promise!

BUNNS

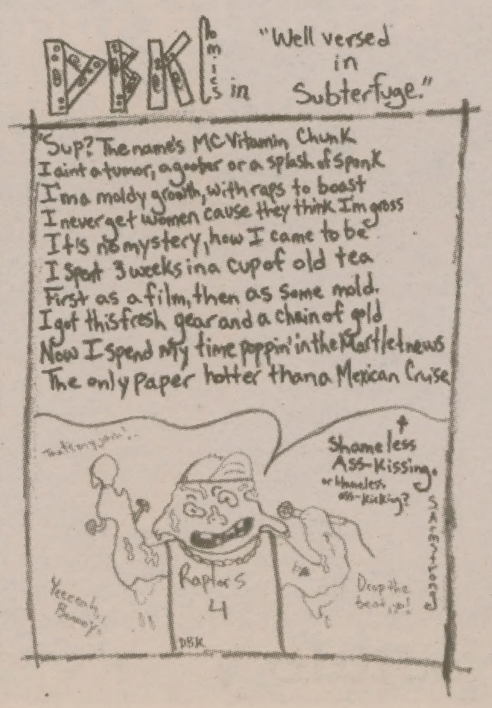
...THEN I WOKE UP ON THE FLOOR OF THIS MATT SMITH GUY'S REC ROOM, AND HE WOULD NOT STOP SCREAMING.
AIII-EE!
COME ON HONEY! SHOW ME YOUR CARROT!
BRING THAT SWEET ASS BACK HERE, I WANT TO HAVE YOUR BABIES!!!!

BUNNSCOMIC.COM GLEN O'NEILL 2009

LOUIE GRENOUILLE by Elliott Dickson

LOUIE, AGE 8

DBK Comics in "Well versed in Subterfuge."


'Sup? The name's MC Vitamin Chunk
I aint a tumor, a goober or a splash of spunk
I'm a moldy growth, with rags to boast
I never get women cause they think I'm gross
It is no mystery, how I came to be
I Spent 3 weeks in a cup of old tea
First as a film, then as some mold.
I got this fresh gear and a chain of gold
Now I spend my time poppin' in the Martletnews
The only paper hotter than a Mexican Cruise
Shameless Ass-Kissing
Raptors 4
Drop the beat, yo!
DBK

Smith vs. Smith presents: "Fun with Felipe!"

Can YOU help Felipe avoid his responsibilities and play XBox on the couch?

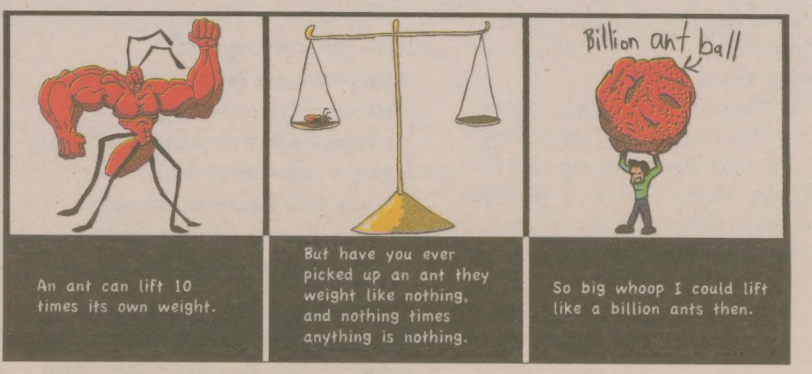
DECAPOSITION

BY HALKO

PART 3 of 17
...SHIT!!
BRAAACK!
SPACE SICK ...*BURP*
I KNOW THE TWIG IS STILL IN MY HANDS... I KNOW IT!!
I JUST CAN'T SEE IT!
CALM THE FUCK DOWN ... FEEL THE TWIG ... RELAX MY GRIP...
AND...
...LET GO!!
SUDDENLY, I'M BACK IN MY BATHROOM... SORT OF...
FUCK!
TO BE CONTINUED...
rocco.roxy@gmail.com

DAY 488 ✝ JANUARY, 2009

y'know, I get some measure of satisfaction from doing the dishes.
well done, my boy
Aah! Ken? the weird dude who worked at the bookstore briefly?!
The same, child.
Are you... my Father?
No, I'm just a really awkward dude.


An ant can lift 10 times its own weight.
But have you ever picked up an ant they weight like nothing, and nothing times anything is nothing.
Billion ant ball
So big whoop I could lift like a billion ants then.